

## **Reflection on experience as a UTA for MATH 323, with Ted Laetsch**

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I had the freedom to make this experience what I wanted it to be. My mentor teacher did a wonderful job of including me in as much responsibility as I desired to take. I had the opportunity to present in class, lead review sessions and help students during office hours. The most exciting part was the review sessions because students were thinking out loud, asking questions, debating with one another, and expressing what they had learned so far. The students who came to me were generally the ones who are enthusiastic about learning and doing well in classes, so it was a nice way to be introduced into the teaching/tutoring role.

It was challenging to try to remember all of the material, both in the tutoring lab and in preparing the review sessions, and it definitely led me to brush up on forgotten skills/material.

My advice for future UTAs would be to ask questions! As many questions as you can think of, to your mentors, and the students you work with. This is just something I would do more if I were to repeat the program. It seems to me that the best part of the job was building relationships. A big part of that was learning what people think, how and why they think it, and what changed their mind about things. I felt like I was in a privileged position to see how much work goes into teaching a class, and I appreciate my own instructors more, because I have a better idea of what they do.