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UTA Program Reflection
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This semester of the UTA program was a very unique experience for me and for all of the UTAs. This semester, most of us taught in classes that were designed to be completely online. We all experienced tutoring in an online environment, grading virtual homeworks, proctoring virtual exams, and taking questions from a virtual audience. This semester of the UTA program was very different from my first, and it allowed me to see an entirely different side of teaching that I had not experienced before.

Teaching online is, obviously, very different from teaching in-person. There are many new obstacles to be aware of: connection issues, audio issues, lack of audience engagement, etc. These challenges were all things that my mentor and I both had to learn to overcome together. Being a UTA, I had both the perspective of the student and the teacher, and I believe these were my key to learning to overcome the unique challenges of online learning.

One of the biggest challenges is something that the UTA program already heavily emphasizes: communication. Specifically, communicating math. Communicating mathematics can be difficult enough as it is, but online it is even more difficult. Drawing on a virtual whiteboard can be a long and arduous process without the right equipment, and verbal communication is very susceptible to the aforementioned audio and connection issues. This semester of the UTA program really forced me to be precise with both written notation and verbal terminology when communicating with students.

This semester also gave me experience with grading that I did not get last semester, specifically with the website Gradscope. Personally, I saw Gradescope as a benefit to online learning. I believe that submitting and grading homework on Gradescope is in many ways easier and more efficient than grading by hand. The process of submitting, creating a rubric, grading, returning grades, and requesting and reviewing regrade requests are all made very efficient with Gradescope.

Overall, I'm very glad I decided to join the UTA program again despite the shift to online learning. Being a UTA this semester helped me see both sides of online learning, and learn from the struggles I saw on each end. I want to personally thank Dr. Tiffany Jones and Dr. Christina Duron for allowing me to be part of this fantastic program again, as it has given both an entirely new set of tools with which to tackle online teaching and an entirely new perspective with which to tackle online learning.