



MEMO

TO: Deans, Chairs, and Program Heads  
FROM: Nancy Marcus, Dean, The Graduate School  
SUBJECT: TA Certification  
DATE: July 24, 2017

Each semester in accordance with guidelines of the Commission on Colleges (SACS) and the standards outlined in the “University-wide Standards for Graduate Teaching Assistants” at Florida State University, the Academic Dean of each college is required to certify to the Vice President of Faculty Development and Advancement and the Dean of the Graduate School that each graduate student who serves as a graduate teaching assistant (TA) in the classroom or online is competent to teach at the level she or he is appointed and for international graduate teaching assistants (ITA) that they are also competent to teach in spoken English. The necessary qualifications for teaching are stated in the “University-wide Standards for Graduate Teaching Assistants” posted [here](#).

An online portal was created within the Graduate Student Tracking (GST) system to facilitate and streamline the certification process. The TA certification submission process is outlined below.

Steps for submission of documentation

1. Each department should evaluate all of their current and/or new graduate students to determine at which levels each is qualified to teach and if the student meets the requirement for competency in spoken English. This evaluation can be done by running the TA Student Level Evaluation report in GST. Programs should run this report **in advance** to determine the pool of students qualified and therefore eligible to serve as a TA. Please be aware that students eligible at Levels 1 & 2 may not be qualified to serve at Levels 3 & 4. The reports can be run to distinguish the levels. The reports provide essential information for making valid appointments.
2. **Note:** Students who do not meet the criteria for certification are denoted in GST (red “x” visible), and should not be appointed as a TA. A program should reassign such students to a non-TA position if they wish to continue funding them. If a program believes the data is not correct in GST or believes it has a justifiable reason for an exception, it should contact James Beck in The Graduate School. After the department has confirmed the qualifications and eligibility of their students, appropriate appointments should be made, after which a memo should be sent to the Academic Dean’s Office stating that their TAs are qualified to teach and the TA certification process is complete.

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3. The Academic Dean or Dean's Office representative **should** evaluate the TA certification entries in GST and confirm that the college's TAs are properly qualified.
4. After the Academic Dean or Dean's Office representative has confirmed that all of the college's TAs are qualified, he/she should send an email to James Beck.
  - The email should simply state that the "college's TA certification process is complete and that all TAs are competent in spoken English and qualified to teach at their level of appointment."
  - Do not include the names or IDs of individual students in the email.
  - TAs need to be certified and emails need to be received by **August 25, 2017**.