

RESEARCH BRIEF



In Fall 2021, 4 Teaching Assistants (TAs) reflected on their experiences in EDPY 303, an undergraduate classroom assessment course. TAs identified their main opportunities and challenges of helping teach an online course during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Opportunities and Challenges of Being an EDPY 303 Teaching Assistant

TAs shared their main opportunities and challenges

The most common words are here...



Main Opportunities	Main Challenges
Helping pre-service teachers navigate online instruction.	Connecting with students online given limited opportunities to connect in-person.
Enhancing teaching and communication skills when supporting students who required accommodations.	Effectively managing TA hours to accommodate meetings requested by students.
Helping to facilitate online learning through class break-out sessions	Managing an online course with students who wanted the class to be in-person.
The chance to create Teacher Talks by interviewing teachers that I had previously worked with.	The sheer volume of student questions and concerns, especially in the first couple weeks of the course.

The role of TAs in learning experiences is important but also stressful, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic as students have many questions about assessment as it pertains to not only their coursework, but also their future as teachers. Helping prepare TAs for these challenges will support future EDPY 303 students in their coursework and transition into their Introductory Professional Term.