

Guidelines for Teaching-Related Learning Opportunities for HALE Doctoral Students

In recent years, an increasing number of HALE doctoral students have expressed interest in developing teaching abilities as part of their career preparation. While teaching is a complex responsibility involving many competencies, those seeking to develop as teachers would do well to seek experiences that address the processes of designing learning environments, facilitating learning processes, and assessing learning outcomes. Developing a level of comfort with the various environments in which learning occurs, including online contexts, would also be fruitful for students who expect teaching will be part of their careers. Those seeking to develop such interests will want to review the various opportunities that may be appropriate for their professional development and discuss these with their advisors as they plan their programs of study and select complementary activities. As indicated in the list below, opportunities are available through HALE, the College of Education, and the MSU Graduate School:

- Courses: The HALE Program offers a number of courses that provide excellent preparation for teaching. Students interested in developing teaching competencies should consider taking one or more of these courses: Adult Learning (EAD 861), Teaching in Postsecondary Education (EAD 866), Training and Professional Development (EAD 863), Adult Career Development (EAD 864), Program Planning and Evaluation in Postsecondary Education (EAD 877), Education in the Digital Age (EAD 882), and Pedagogical Issues in Postsecondary Education (EAD 969). Online courses are available both in HALE and in the broader College. Taking an online course provides an opportunity to deepen familiarity with one of today's fast-growing learning contexts. The program in Educational Psychology and Educational Technology (EPET) within the College of Education often provides graduate courses specifically focused on technology and education.
- HALE Teaching Certificate: The Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning facilitates understanding of learning in adulthood and the implications of this knowledge for helping adults learn in postsecondary institutions, organizations, and in the broader society. The Certificate requires 9 credits taken from a specified set of HALE courses. See the HALE website for specific details.
- Graduate School PREP Program: The MSU Graduate School offers a comprehensive professional development program (PREP) for doctoral students across the university interested in preparing themselves for the range of professional abilities and skills that their careers may require. Workshops concerning teaching and instructional aspects of academic work are among the opportunities available. Interested students should consult the Graduate School website (<http://grad.msu.edu/prep/>) for a description of the PREP program and a listing of workshops, as well as the Graduate School Guidebook of Essential Career Competencies for Ph.D.s (<http://grad.msu.edu/prep/docs/planyourwork.pdf>). Participation in Graduate School opportunities provides occasions for interacting with doctoral students in other disciplines and fields who also wish to explore teaching-related topics.

- “Explorations in Technology” Seminar Series: The MSU Office of Libraries, Technology, and Computing coordinates a regular brownbag series entitled “Explorations in Instructional Technology, “ which highlights opportunities and issues relating to online teaching and learning. Information is available through the Coordinator of the Series, Professor Byron Brown (brownb@msu.edu). Several times each year the MSU Library also sponsors special seminars on online teaching.
- Teaching EAD 315: HALE offers an undergraduate course on Student Leadership, which provides an opportunity for HALE graduate students to apprentice in the context of a guided teaching experience. Teaching EAD 315 provides an excellent opportunity to develop as a teacher, as instructors design the specific content of their section within a guided curriculum, receive professional mentoring from an EAD faculty member and doctoral student coordinator as they prepare and deliver the course, and have full responsibility for teaching the section. Even if HALE students do not aspire to teaching, working with this course offers a robust opportunity for intensive contact with today’s undergraduates. EAD 315 is offered in face-to-face or online formats. The course is offered fall, spring, and summer terms; summer is only online and teaching is limited to HALE doctoral students. Students interested in this opportunity should respond to requests for applications which occur each term and typically must commit to teaching by mid-semester of the preceding term.
- HALE Doctoral Teaching Apprentice Opportunity: In some courses, HALE faculty members may be able to offer an opportunity for a doctoral student to gain experience through a teaching apprenticeship in an undergraduate or 800-level course. Whether such an opportunity can be made available is a decision left to the discretion and preference of each faculty member concerning courses he or she is teaching. Doctoral Teaching Apprenticeships are uncompensated learning opportunities for the graduate student; an apprenticeship is not a Teaching Assistantship, nor is an apprenticeship part of a student’s Research Assistantship. The specific roles a Teaching Apprentice might assume are negotiated between the faculty member and Doctoral Student Apprentice (although students do not assume the role of grading other students). Typically a doctoral student would have already taught EAD 315 prior to requesting the opportunity to serve as a Teaching Apprentice in a HALE course. Students interested in such an opportunity should discuss their interest both with their advisor and with the faculty member with whom they would like to apprentice. As a graduate program, HALE has a limited number of courses that lend themselves to including a Teaching Apprentice; thus, students wishing to pursue the possibility of such an opportunity should recognize that serving as an Apprentice would usually occur only once in the graduate career and cannot be guaranteed as part of the doctoral experience.