# Mentored Postdoctoral Teaching Experience in BioSci

In certain circumstances, the BioSci Program offers postdocs mentored teaching experiences. Here are the general criteria for consideration for a mentored teaching experience.

1. BioSci coordinate department are unable to fill all of the BioSci GTA slots because there are not enough GTAs available.
2. The postdoc is interest in teaching and wishes to build a teaching portfolio.
3. The postdoc's research mentor agrees to release the postdoc from 20 hours of research each week for the length of the teaching assignment.
4. The postdoc can be matched to an appropriate faculty mentor who agrees to take on mentoring responsibilities for that postdoc.

***Postdocs will NOT displace graduate students who need TA funding.*** GTAs will be given top priority and postdocs will only be used when no GTAs are available.

This is NOT intended to serve as a bridge program for postdocs who lack funding. The postdoc must continue to work in the research lab ½ time for the length of the teaching assignment. BioSci will cover ½ of the postdocs salary at the same rate as their research salary for the length of the teaching assignment.

The postdoc will be expected to take on all the responsibilities of a typical GTA for the course as well as some additional teaching responsibilities aimed at building their teaching credentials.

## Here is an example of what a mentored teaching experience in BS161 might look like.

* Attend weekly BS161 instructional team training session – 1 hour per week.
* Prep for training meetings – 1 hour per week.
* Prep for weekly reviews – 2 hours per week.
* Weekly review sessions – 2 hours per week.
* Interacting with students before and after class each week - 1 hour per week.
* Attend Class and facilitate active learning - 3.5 hours per week.
* Grading Clicker Questions and Quizzes and managing recordings – 1 hour per week.
* Electronic Q and A in Launch Pad or via e-mail – 2.5 hour per week.
* Section specific training (time TBD) and prep for class – 2 hours per week.
* Serving as lead instructor (delivering lectures or leading classroom activities) for a specific topic covering 2-3 lectures and/or developing instructional modules and assessments for a specific topic.
* Preparing for lectures when you are lead instructor and for presentation at the BS161 instructional team training meeting – 1 hour per week – this will not really be spread out over the semester rather these 15 hours will be used prior to your lectures and training meeting presentation to ensure you are well prepared.
* Assessing classroom activities and providing students with feedback or grading exams – 3 hours on average: this will vary week to week and you should look at the syllabus and plan in advance to help grade following modeling days and exams.

## Here is an example of what a mentored teaching experience in BS162 might look like.

* Attend weekly BS162 instructional team training session – 1 hour per week.
* Prep for training meetings – 1 hour per week.
* Prep for weekly reviews – 2 hours per week.
* Weekly review sessions – 2 hours per week.
* Interacting with students before and after class each week - 1 hour per week.
* Attend Class and facilitate active learning - 3.5 hours per week.
* Grading Clicker Questions and Quizzes and managing recordings – 1 hour per week.
* Electronic Q and A via e-mail – 2.5 hour per week.
* Section specific training (time TBD) and prep for class – 2 hours per week.
* Serving as lead instructor (delivering lectures or leading classroom activities) for a specific topic covering 2-3 lectures and/or developing instructional modules and assessments for a specific topic.
* Preparing for lectures when you are lead instructor and for presentation at the BS161 instructional team training meeting – 1 hour per week – this will not really be spread out over the semester rather these 15 hours will be used prior to your lectures and training meeting presentation to ensure you are well prepared.
* Assessing classroom activities and providing students with feedback or grading exams – 3 hours on average: this will vary week to week and you should look at the syllabus and plan in advance to help grade following modeling days and exams.

## Here is an example of what a mentored teaching experience in BS171 might look like.

* Instruction for 2 sections of lab – 6.5 hours per week.
* Help hours – 2 hours per week.
* Attend recitations – 1 hour per week.
* Attend prep meeting – 3.5 hours per week.
* E-mails – 1 hour per week.
* Prep time – 1 hour per week.
* Grading – 4 hours per week.
* Teaching Project which could be preparing and leading the recitations for one week or developing/modifying a course assessment – 1 hour per week on average but will likely be concentrated in in two or three weeks.

Some departments are using this mentored teaching experience in BioSci as part of a larger teaching certification program for their postdocs. There may be additional requirements for those programs: the requirements listed here are only for the mentored postdoctoral teaching experience in BioSci.

If you have questions about the mentored postdoctoral teaching experience in BioSci, please contact Jon Stoltzfus, the BioSci Program Director ([stoltzfu@msu.edu](mailto:stoltzfu@msu.edu)).