

# New GTA Orientation | Spring 2021

Congratulations on your new position as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) at the University of Kansas (KU)! GTAs play an integral role at KU. All new GTAs must complete a mandatory New GTA Orientation offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) or an approved alternative New GTA Orientation offered by their hiring department. Please find more details about the three components associated with CTE's New GTA Orientation below.

1. Policy Tutorial	2. Remote Conference		3. Follow-up Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be completed by ALL new GTAs</li><li>• Goal is to introduce and familiarize you with KU policies and procedures as they relate to your duties as a GTA</li><li>• Covers five broad topics: Privacy and Disability, Consenting Relationships and Sexual Harassment, Professional Expectations, Academic Integrity, and COVID-19 policy</li><li>• Complete in <a href="#">Blackboard</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <b>Available January 11</b></li><li>• <b>Due January 31</b></li><li>• Time commitment: 2 hrs</li></ul>	<h3>2a. Essential Modules</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be completed by ALL new GTAs unless your department<sup>2</sup> has an approved alternative</li><li>• Goal is to provide you with an overview of best practices of teaching</li><li>• There are three essential modules to complete: Evaluating Student Learning, Creating an Inclusive and Engaging Climate for ALL Your Students, and Considerations for Teaching Online</li><li>• Complete in <a href="#">Blackboard</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <b>Modules available January 18</b></li><li>• <b>Live Zoom Welcome Session on January 25, 1–2:30 PM CT</b></li><li>• <b>Due January 31</b></li><li>• Time commitment: 4 hrs</li></ul>	<h3>2b. Breakout Modules</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be completed by ALL new GTAs unless your department<sup>2</sup> has an approved alternative</li><li>• Goal is to provide you with an overview of best practices of teaching considering your specific role</li><li>• GTAs are required to choose and complete three breakout modules</li><li>• Available breakout topics include: Guiding Discussions, Lecturing, Teaching a Science Lab, Problem Solving in the Technical Classroom, Succeeding in the First Few Weeks, Handling Difficult Conversations, Teaching in the U.S., and How to Grade Student Writing</li><li>• Complete in <a href="#">Blackboard</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <b>Modules available January 25</b></li><li>• <b>Due February 5</b></li><li>• Time commitment: 3–4 hrs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be completed by ALL new GTAs unless your department<sup>2</sup> has an approved alternative</li><li>• Goal is to provide you with an opportunity to discuss challenges you are facing and to develop a plan to make any adjustments you believe are needed to improve your students' learning</li><li>• Register for one Zoom synchronous session through <a href="#">Qualtrics survey</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <b>Registration open February 1</b></li><li>• <b>Complete session by March 19</b></li><li>• Time commitment: 1 hr</li></ul>

1. You can access the orientation component by clicking the associated linked after availability date. For Blackboard courses you can also access by logging in to your Blackboard at [courseware.ku.edu](https://courseware.ku.edu). If you are having trouble accessing a link after the availability date, email Kaila Colyott at [kcolyott@ku.edu](mailto:kcolyott@ku.edu).

2. If you are teaching in a department that has an approved alternative GTA orientation, you only need to complete the CTE-hosted New GTA Policy Tutorial component. You can check to see if your department has an alternative program at [cte.ku.edu/gta-resources](https://cte.ku.edu/gta-resources).

**Questions?** If you have any questions, e-mail us at [kcolyott@ku.edu](mailto:kcolyott@ku.edu) or [cte@ku.edu](mailto:cte@ku.edu), or visit our website at [cte.ku.edu](https://cte.ku.edu)

*Revised 10.13.2020*