



# TAO

## TEACHING ASSISTANT ORIENTATION

AUGUST 17 & 18, 2011

“It was good to set aside some time to think about my job as a TA for this upcoming school year. It was useful to hear some first hand TA experiences, such as when the experienced TA spoke with us, and to get a better sense of VU's policies.”

- 2010 TAO Participant

### TAO 2011 Schedule

#### Wednesday, August 17, 2011

12:30-1:00 **Check-In & Registration** – Please eat lunch before arriving.

1:00-3:00 **Disciplinary Focus Session I** – Join other new TAs in your discipline and learn about effective teaching methods relevant to the teaching you'll be doing as a TA— for example, holding office hours, grading papers, running a lab, or teaching your own course.

3:00-3:15 **Break** – Refreshments provided.

3:15-5:00 **Disciplinary Focus Session II** – Engage in further exploration of teaching issues in your discipline.

#### Thursday, August 18, 2011

9:00-12:15 **Practice Teaching Sessions** – Prepare and give a 5-minute demonstration of teaching in your discipline and receive feedback on your teaching from your peers and from more experienced TAs in your discipline.

### What is TAO?

Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO) prepares graduate students to assume their teaching duties with confidence by engaging them in interactive sessions about teaching methods and resources. By attending TAO, you will...

- Discover effective teaching techniques relevant to the teaching you'll be doing as a TA.
- Learn about Vanderbilt policies and resources for TAs.
- Practice your teaching skills and receive feedback from more experienced TAs.
- Explore ways in which you can approach teaching as a scholarly activity.

### Who Should Attend TAO?

Graduate students who will begin teaching assistant (TA) duties during the 2011-12 school year are invited to attend TAO. You may be required to attend TAO by your department. Please check with your department to find out its TAO attendance policy.

*If you are an incoming international graduate student, then you should also plan on participating in a language assessment on August 16. Please sign up online or contact the English Language Center for more information at: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/elc/ita>.*

### Register for TAO

All TAO participants are asked to register for the event by **August 8, 2011**. To register, please visit <http://cft.vanderbilt.edu/programs/tao/>

“I went into this with no specific expectations. I feel like it was much more helpful than I anticipated! My leader made it a fun, relaxed experience. It was more than just a ‘required’ orientation for me, as I feel more prepared and confident about being a TA this year for the first time.”

- 2009 TAO Participant



### Questions?

For more information, please visit the Center for Teaching's web site, [cft.vanderbilt.edu](http://cft.vanderbilt.edu) or contact the CFT at 615-322-7290.