

## **Pathways to Biology Teaching for Postdoctoral Associates**

### **Division of Biological Sciences**

Many of us have served as teaching assistants in lab or lecture courses, or have supervised undergraduate researchers. These are valuable experiences that help us develop communication and mentoring skills but in many instances they do not provide the same professional preparation as being responsible for teaching some or all of an undergraduate course. Search committees, even at research universities, are looking for candidates with knowledge of undergraduate teaching and learning and with experience designing, implementing, and evaluating undergraduate instruction. You can gain this knowledge and expertise at multiple levels in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Georgia.

**Step 1 – Seminar in Teaching Biology (BIOL/PBIO 8010).** This seminar is designed for postdoctoral associates and senior graduate students interested in learning how to teach biology effectively in their own courses rather than as teaching assistants. This one-credit seminar meets weekly during the spring semester for 15 two-hour sessions. Topics include developing a syllabus, defining learning objectives, observing and evaluating teaching in various classrooms, writing a teaching statement, and practice teaching. Participants also develop familiarity with research on science teaching and learning.

**Step 2 – Teaching Internship in Biological Sciences (BIOL/CBIO/PBIO 7360).** In this course, postdoctoral associates and senior graduate students teach a short series of lessons in an undergraduate biology course (i.e., 2-3 class sessions). This course involves designing, conducting, and evaluating the series of lessons with mentorship from an experienced faculty instructor with expertise in biology teaching and learning. The particular courses, faculty mentors, and mentoring plans for internships are arranged on an individual basis according to interests of the intern and the instructional responsibilities of the mentor. Courses currently available for internships include BIOL 1103 Concepts in Biology, BIOL 1104 Organismal Biology, BIOL 1107 and 1108 Principles of Biology, BCMB 3100 Introduction to Biochemistry, CBIO 3400 Cell Biology, and MIBO 3500 Introduction to Microbiology.

**Step 3 – Co-Teaching and Mentored Teaching.** Opportunities to co-teach or engage in mentored teaching of undergraduate biology courses are available to postdoctoral associates and designed on an ad hoc basis according to the postdoctoral associate's interests and the instructional needs of the Division of Biological Sciences. Co-teaching and mentored teaching may be conducted for credit or part-time salary depending on the availability of funds.

As UGA employees, postdoctoral associates can request tuition assistance to complete up to three credits per semester tuition-free, with the permission of their supervisors. For additional information, visit the Tuition Assistance Program website at: <http://www.reg.uga.edu/facultyStaffServices/tap>

Each of these steps will help you develop your knowledge of biology education and your expertise in biology teaching. You can note the experiences on your CV, earn course credit, and develop relationships with experienced instructors who can serve as referees of your teaching and communication skills as you go on the job market.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Division of Biological Sciences ([biochair@uga.edu](mailto:biochair@uga.edu)) (706) 542-1693.