

Teaching Opportunities for Doctoral Students

September 2026

Classroom instruction is a fundamental component of academic scholarship. Teaching skills are transferable to a variety of formal and informal educational settings, research situations, and opportunities in both academia and industry. Rigorous doctoral training provides graduate students opportunities to build and strengthen their pedagogical knowledge and classroom/course management skills.

To facilitate advanced pedagogical training, doctoral students may serve as instructors of record for existing undergraduate courses in the Department of Anthropology within their area and/or subdiscipline. Such undergraduate-only courses include core introductory classes, I-courses, and upper-level classes (300-level) as available, and will have no more than 30 students. Interested students are in good academic standing, will have successfully completed all of their area examinations, and have preferably served as a graduate teaching assistant for the class they wish to teach.

Interested doctoral students should submit the following application materials:

- 1. Cover sheet (form)** that is signed by the Director of Graduate Studies to indicate their approval of the doctoral student as a potential instructor of record. This cover sheet will provide information about the courses the student has TA'd previously within the department, their experience and expertise within their subdiscipline, and courses they would be interested in teaching.
- 2. Two Letters of Support**
 - a. From the doctoral student's primary faculty advisor. The letter should address the student's academic standing in the program, ability to serve as an instructor, and the potential benefit to their professional development.
 - b. From an instructor/supervisor for whom the graduate student has served as an assistant. The letter should address the student's classroom management and instructional abilities.
- 3. Teaching Statement (2 pages max.)** addressing the student's qualifications to teach an undergraduate course and their teaching pedagogy

Applications should be submitted to **Dr. Jen Shaffer** (lschaffel@umd.edu) and will be kept on file for review by department administrative staff for future instructional opportunities.