

UA GTA TEACHING AWARDS

The Julia Annas Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

The UA Department of Philosophy graduate teaching assistant award is named in honor of Regents Professor of Philosophy Julia Annas, in recognition of a career of distinguished teaching and mentoring. The philosophy department annually bestows the Annas Award to recognize outstanding teaching by a graduate teaching assistant. The selection process for this award is managed by the Department of Philosophy Graduate Teaching Assistant Advisory Committee. The award is determined by a vote of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy.

Eligibility: Any philosophy GTA is eligible to be considered for the teaching award, provided that he or she:

1. will, by the end of spring semester, have completed at least 4 semesters of work as a GTA during the normal academic year (fall and spring semesters),
2. is within the normal five year funding period, except for graduate students whose areas of specialization require a year or more of study in another field,
3. has not already received the department's teaching award, and
4. is making good progress toward the Ph.D.

Ordinarily, that means that philosophy graduate students will be eligible to be considered for the award in the spring of their second year and will not be eligible for consideration after their fifth year.

Consideration: In order to be considered for the award, eligible graduate students must:

1. make sure that their teaching files are up to date and include
 - (a) faculty reports from each visit to their classes, and
 - (b) at least two sets of student evaluations (scores and written comments) for GTAs in the second year and at least three for GTAs in the third through fifth years, plus the TCE summary listing all courses taught and teaching effectiveness scores.
2. notify the TA Advisory Committee, no later than February 15 of the spring semester, that their files are complete.

Graduate students who have taught online courses should include student evaluations from at least one of them in addition to the two or three sets indicated in 1(b), but these are not required for consideration, and student evaluations from regular courses will play the predominant role in selecting candidates for the teaching award.

Selection: The award will be given on the basis of a vote of the faculty, in light of the following factors:

1. Recommendations of the TA Advisory Committee, following a review of the teaching files of eligible GTAs who have notified the committee that their files are complete.
2. Faculty recommendations.
3. Semesters of service as a GTA.
4. A relatively consistent record of exceptional performance or substantial improvement leading to an exceptional level of performance as a GTA.

Although second year graduate students are eligible to be considered for the teaching award, we expect that the award will typically go to students in their third through fifth years as they will have had more time to develop their teaching skills and build a strong teaching record.

SBS Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants

The SBS Outstanding GTA award, sponsored by the University of Arizona Foundation and awarded by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, recognize excellent teaching performance by GTAs, as well as their contribution to the instructional mission of SBS. Those GTAs selected to receive the award will be given a certificate at the SBS Commencement Recognition Ceremony and a check for \$100.00

In selecting the name of a candidate to nominate for the SBS Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award on behalf of the School of Philosophy, the philosophy department shall employ the same criteria for eligibility, consideration, and selection as employed for the departmental teaching award.

The Teaching Assistant Advisory Committee, with the consultation and assistance of the nominee, shall, by noon on the specified March deadline, prepare three packets of information for the nominee containing:

- a) one or more letters of nomination discussing the nominee's qualities, contributions, and achievements;
- b) a curriculum vitae that (i) describes the nominee's qualities and achievements (including those related to instruction) and (ii) provides his or her social security number, phone number, home town and state, and an address where he or she can best be reached during the semester; and
- c) a short biographical sketch suitable for reading at an awards ceremony.