Stages of TA Development

Stage One: Senior Learners
(Nyquist & Wulff, 1998)

• Have no teaching experience
• Need to know supervisors’ expectations and expectations for supervisors
• Need to understand the alignment between SLOs, assignments/activities, and assessments
• Need clarity on level of autonomy and discretion
• Need understanding of how performance is evaluated
• Need procedures for addressing student issues and/or complaints

Stage Two: Colleagues-in-Training/Junior Colleagues
(Nyquist & Sprague, 1998)

• Have prior teaching experience
• Need to examine the ideas behind the course’s creation and organization
• Need to consider different pedagogies and teaching strategies
• Need opportunities to experiment with different approaches to teaching and learning
• Need exposure to professional development opportunities
• Need to develop own teaching philosophy


*Keep in mind that individual differences and the context for the assistantships may call for different approaches and considerations.