

Quality of the Supervised Teaching Experience

1. Training in instruction

All GAANN Fellows will receive an incoming orientation on teaching techniques, practices, and facilities and infrastructure to support instruction at Purdue. The GAANN Executive Committee, or their delegates, will oversee all aspects of the Fellows' teaching experiences.

2. Instruction on effective teaching techniques

Prior to or concurrent with their own teaching experiences GAANN Fellows will take Philosophy of Biological Instruction, taught by Dr. Rick Howard. Teaching experiences will occur in two phases during the 2nd and 3rd years of study. In Phase I (year 2), Fellows will serve as graduate teaching assistants in a lower-division laboratory course with recitation responsibilities, e.g., Laboratory in Diversity, Ecology and Behavior (Levy), Principles of Ecology (Howard/Waser), Laboratory in Ecology of Fishes and Mammals (Rhodes), or Laboratory in Ecology of Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds (Rhodes). These courses, taught by GAANN faculty, have weekly staff meetings through the semester to prepare, advise and mentor the teaching assistants. In Phase II (year 3), Fellows will co-teach an upper-division 5-week module course or advanced topics seminar with a supervising GAANN faculty member, (e.g., Interpretation of Population Genetic Data, FNR 598A; Ph.D. candidate Emily Latch, supervised by Rhodes). The co-teaching experience will combine all training elements for a course, including development (syllabus, lectures, exams), administration (grading, counseling, ordering supplies) and delivery (lecture and seminar, traditional or multimedia formats). Opportunities for additional teaching experiences in year 4 also will be available to Fellows.

3. Supervision of teaching performance

GAANN faculty will continually mentor the Fellows during their teaching efforts and provide frequent feedback on teaching style, content and effectiveness. During the upper-level teaching experience, feedback will be derived principally from evaluations by students in the course rather than by direct observation, because the presence of a faculty member can interfere with the learning experience of both the students and the Fellow. The GAANN Executive Committee will consult with all supervising faculty on each Fellow's teaching performance.

4. Evaluation of teaching performance

All Purdue teaching assistants and faculty are evaluated anonymously by their students at the end of each course using a standard set of questions with a multiple-option response format and optional additional comment section. The teachers receive a summary of scoring and transcribed comments after the semester. Supervising faculty also evaluate teaching assistants at semester's end, and these comments are transmitted to the assistant. Both methods will be employed for GAANN Fellows, along with more frequent confidential evaluations received from students during the Phase II teaching experience. Evaluations will be discussed with the Fellow by members of the Executive Committee and/or their Major Professor.