

Choose Your Own Adventure Mini-Sessions

Location	Rotation 1 12:40PM - 1:00PM	Rotation 2 1:10PM - 1:30PM	Rotation 3 1:40PM - 2:00PM
OCA 206	Supporting Student Success: Library Resources for GTAs	Supporting Student Success: Library Resources for GTAs	Supporting Student Success: Library Resources for GTAs
OCA 208	Tips for Leading Science Labs	Giving Good Feedback	Giving Good Feedback
OCA 203	Blackboard Basics for TAs	Blackboard Basics for TAs	
OCA 207	Tips for Leading Seminars	Tips for Leading Seminars	Tips for Leading Seminars
OCA 204	Building Inclusive Classrooms and Labs	Building Inclusive Classrooms and Labs	Tips for Leading Science Labs
OCA 221.6	Teaching in the Age of AI	Teaching in the Age of AI	Blackboard Basics for TAs

Open for Choose Your Own
Adventure Mini-Session
Descriptions!



Did you know that by participating in Orientation today, you have already completed a key step of the Introduction to Graduate Teaching Micro-Credential?

- ✓ Attend a synchronous GTA Orientation Day
- ✓ Complete the asynchronous GTA Training Units (on Blackboard)
- ___ Submit a short reflection by October 15

Learn more and check out our other micro-credentials online:



Questions? Feel free to email the Trent Teaching Commons:
teachingcommons@trentu.ca



Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation



Wednesday,
September 9, 2026

Otonabee College



Schedule

Time	Agenda	Location
8:45AM - 9:00AM	Check In	OCA 203
9:00AM - 11:45AM	Welcome <i>Dr. Fergal O'Hagan, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning</i> Art, Science, and Craft of Teaching <i>Dana Capell, Senior Education Developer</i> What to Expect as a GTA <i>Kristin Jones and Tyler Majer, CUPE 3908-2</i> GTAs as Professionals and Exam Invigilators <i>Lara Hintelmann, Office of the Deans of Arts and Science</i> Indigenizing the Academy <i>Mitch Huguenin, Education Developer, Indigenous Pedagogy</i>	OCA 203
11:45AM - 12:30PM	Lunch	OC Commons
12:30PM - 12:35PM	Overview and explanation of Choose Your Own Adventure Sessions	OCA 203
12:40PM - 2:00PM	Choose Your Own Adventure Rotations	OCA 203 OCA 204 OCA 206 OCA 207 OCA 208 OCA 221.6
2:10PM - 3:30PM	Panel Discussion with Current GTAs	OCA 203

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE SESSIONS

Tips for Leading Seminars

Dr. Devon Stillwell - Education Developer, Trent Teaching Commons

Are you leading seminars in the humanities or social sciences? This session is for you! Dr. Devon Stilwell, an experienced instructor and Education Developer, will discuss strategies for facilitating engaging student discussions, asking good questions, and incorporating active learning into your teaching.

Tips for Leading Science Labs

Brandon Rummelgas - Education Developer, Trent Teaching Commons

Are you facilitating a science lab? This session is for you! Brandon Rummelgas has many years of experience as a TA and Biology Instructor. Join him to discuss strategies for asking good questions and managing the lab environment.

Teaching in the Age of AI

Dana Capell, Senior Education Developer, Trent Teaching Commons

Are you concerned about how AI is changing teaching and learning? This session is for you! Dana Capell, a Senior Education Developer, will explore how AI is changing notions of Academic Integrity and what issues GTAs should be aware of as they assess students' work.

Giving Good Feedback

Sumiko Polacco - Academic Skills Instructor, The Colleges

Will you be marking student work? This session is for you! Academic Skills Instructor Sumiko Polacco will be discussing strategies for providing students with feedback that is fair, constructive, and motivating.

Supporting Student Success:

Library Resources for GTAs

Ellen Olsen Lynch - Learning and Liaison Librarian, Bata Library

Do you think the library is only relevant to your role as a researcher? This session is for you! Librarian Ellen Olsen Lynch will explore the essential resources and guidance that Bata Library offers to GTAs as well as how you can support your students in developing good research skills.

Blackboard Basics for TAs

Lillian Alberry - eLearning Designer, Trent Teaching Commons

All Trent courses have a site in Blackboard, Trent's Learning Management System. These sites provide a digital space for professors to post class materials, students to submit assignments, and GTAs to mark students' work. In this session, eLearning Designer Lily Alberry will give helpful tips on how to use Blackboard as a GTA, including grading assignments, leaving comments on student work, and monitoring discussion boards.

Building Inclusive Classrooms and Labs

Vic Mohr-Blakeney - Education Developer, Trent Teaching Commons

Curious about how to create a more inclusive and respectful classroom environment? This session will introduce key concepts of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and share simple, practical strategies to help you support diverse learners. Whether you're leading tutorials or labs, this session will help you begin your teaching journey with an equity-informed lens.



**Participants will choose to
attend one workshop per
time slot.**