

Want to be in front of the classroom as a college teacher?  
Want to get more firsthand experience?



# GRAD720: TOPICS in College Teaching

## Who is This Course For?

Graduate students from both campuses who have completed their core coursework, and who want firsthand classroom experience working under guidance of experienced faculty.

## How Does the Course Work?

Participants are paired with experienced professors and together you develop a plan for you to teach a segment of one of their courses. Observers will provide you with feedback on what you can do to improve in the future.

## When Does the Course Meet?

You and your teaching mentor set times and days, in either fall or spring semester. Usually the experience is completed in 1 month .

## Can Other Teaching Related Activities Count for GRAD720?

You bet. Summer teaching conferences, short courses, programs and national meetings, and many other teaching-related experiences can contribute to your practical experience.

## What Kind of Credit Will I Earn?

Depending on the amount of time spent, you can earn 1-3 hours of 700-level graduate credit on your WFU transcript, just like any other course.

Interested? For More Information, Contact:

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Sponsored by the Graduate School of Wake Forest University

## **GRAD720: Topics in College Level Teaching**

(Formerly, PSPR750, “Skills in Biomedical Teaching”.)

**Semester:** By arrangement; students may complete in fall, spring, or summer

**Grading:** Pass/No Credit

**Prerequisites:** Students must have successfully completed their first year of graduate course-work, and have permission of the course director. Preference will be given to students who have completed their comprehensive examinations and advanced to candidacy.

**Credits:** 1-3, sixteen contact hours are required per credit hour.

### **Description for Graduate Bulletin:**

**GRAD720. Topics in College Level Teaching.** (1-3) Provides students with practical training and experience in college-level teaching. Students may complete a pre-defined internship program, or develop their own individualized training plan that incorporates institutional and external activities. *Howlett*

### **General Description:**

GRAD720 provides a flexible mechanism by which graduate students can receive transcript credit for professional development activities related to college teaching.

Students serving as a paid TA for a course may not also claim GRAD720 course credit for that same course. Students can receive credit for three types of activities:

- 1) Completion of a teaching internship or similar field experiences, either at WFU or other institutions.
- 2) Attending a certain number of workshops, seminars, mini-courses, or similar activities relating to teaching.
- 3) Long-term teaching activities that are not part of student’s regular duties.

### *Teaching Internships (1 credit hour)*

Internships are jointly supervised by the course director and a faculty member at the host institution. During the semester, a student attends at least two self-selected activities related to teaching. These may include workshops offered by the Teaching and Learning Center, completion of a web tutorial, or some other teaching-related professional enhancement activity. Activities should focus specifically on a teaching-related topic, e.g. setting course objectives, effective slide presentations, how to lecture effectively, preparing effective examination questions, dealing with plagiarism, etc.

The student must gain classroom experience by participating in at least three of the following experiences:

- Preparation and delivery of 1 to 3 lectures in an undergraduate course
- Preparation and grading of a homework assignment
- Preparation of exam questions and evaluation of a segment of exams
- Facilitating small group learning: e.g., tutoring sessions, leading a problem-based learning group
- Curriculum development: e.g., preparation of a laboratory exercise

A variety of potential lecture teaching opportunities are available at WFU (Reynolda Campus) and other local institutions (WSSU, Salem College, FTCC). Lecture teaching assignments are made by the course director.

Evaluation: At the end of the semester, participants will submit a Teaching Portfolio and a Teaching Philosophy statement (these may be updated from previous years, with the current semester activities highlighted).

Partial Credit: A student who completes only part of the required activities will not earn a full 1 hour of course credit. Instead, the work will be counted as hours towards credit as described below.

### *Student-Selected Activities*

Students also can earn credit for attending seminars, workshops, mini-courses, or other “approved” activities that relate to teaching. For every 16 contact hours that a student accumulates, they will receive 1 hour of transcript credit (graded as “Pass”). A student can earn a maximum of 3 credit hours for GRAD720.

Not all activities convert directly from clock hours to contact hours. Total contact hours earned for seminars, workshops, etc., will be based on a combination of complexity, level of participant engagement and direct involvement. For example, a student is likely to earn fewer contact hours from attending two 90-minute TLC brown bag discussions (say, one on tips for managing classroom conflict and a second on using Powerpoint effectively in class) than they would for participating in a single intensive 3-hour hands-on workshop on course development led by a pedagogical specialist in the field.

Whenever possible, contact hours for programs sponsored by the Graduate School, Teaching and Learning Center, Professional Development Center, and other campus units will be determined in advance of the event, and publicized when the event is announced. Students also can petition for a program or event to be recognized for contact hours after the event has occurred. In such cases the burden will be on the student to demonstrate how the event or activity has contributed in a material way to their professional development as teachers.

### *Long-Term Teaching Activities*

Often graduate students serve as teaching assistants for a laboratory course for an entire semester. If a student is not paid for this service, they can request up to 3 credit hours for GRAD720 for serving as a TA. Any student who is classified as a TA by the Graduate School and is paid a stipend cannot request course credit for GRAD720 as well.