In response to recommendations of the UC President’s advisory committee on undergraduate education, the UC San Diego Graduate Division implemented the requirement that all UC San Diego Instructional Assistants (IAs) receive appropriate training and evaluation. This task is carried out by the academic departments working in cooperation with the Teaching + Learning Commons (The Commons). The requirement, established in 1978 by the TA Development Advisory Committee, states that all new IAs must participate in introductory workshops on teaching and in a follow-up program that includes observation by and consultation with an experienced teacher (a faculty member, a departmental senior TA, or a Commons’ staff member). This requirement also includes mid-quarter feedback from students, which is incorporated into the consultation process. (Watson, J. (1989) Enhancing Undergraduate Education in the University of California: The Next Steps: A Report from the President’s Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Education. University of California.)

The Teaching + Learning Commons’ role includes preparing graduate students for teaching undergraduates at UC San Diego and for the teaching they will do in future academic and nonacademic careers.

The Commons has developed a template for an IA Handbook that can be edited to include department specific information. Link to template IA handbook may be found here.