

**Department of Communication**

**Graduate Assistant Instructor  
Certificate of Distinction**

The goal of this certificate is to promote and acknowledge the work our teaching assistants do in the Department of Communication.

**Criteria/Eligibility:**

1. Teaching assistant must be the instructor of record for at least one course section.
2. Teaching assistant must have strong teaching evaluations (e.g., reasonable distribution of grades, at or above department average on evaluation items, qualitative comments demonstrating positive learning experiences for students).

**Process:**

- Teaching assistants apply for certificate and submit a packet with the following materials by April 1:
  - Nomination letter (description of what they learned and how they grew as a teacher through the teaching assistantship experience, including their experience in COMM 145, COMM 510 (teaching strategies course), and any sections they assisted with in the department)
  - Faculty letter supporting their development and growth as a teacher
  - Teaching portfolio (teaching evaluations, teaching philosophy, original teaching activity)
- Ad hoc committee consisting of graduate faculty and basic course director assesses the submissions. The committee will make decisions by April 15.

**Award:**

- Certificate of Distinction