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UTA Reflection

Being a UTA for Dr. Addabbo was such a huge learning curve that really prepared me for my upcoming graduate years. I've never been in a position where someone had to rely on me to uphold a class, and to aid in the contribution of student's success, so there were adjustments I had to make through the semester to really optimize my performance, and consequently, the performance of the class. This is the first semester I've ever had to grade any assignments, and on top of that, I had to make the rubrics and the solutions myself. It was always a personal reflection of asking myself the question "do I really know the topic", and "how would I explain this if a student questioned my grading?" I simply didn't want to know the answer, but I wanted to understand it in a sense that I could not only explain it, but potentially make a defense to why a student might judge my grading. It really made me take a new perspective on the education of mathematics. Simply knowing something wasn't enough, you have to be able to explain it in a concise manner and not diverge from the important takeaways.

I've never held review sessions before this semester, so it was something I had to learn to do as well. The first review session, I had students show up, but they didn't have many questions, so I just started recapping the content with no examples and previous homework problems that most of the class struggled with. It didn't go as smoothly as I would have liked, so the next time I had to hold a review session, I went into their textbook and grabbed some practice problems I could work on to show important principles. This seemed to work a lot better, and the students asked more questions than last time as I worked through the already planned out problems. I learned that it takes time to plan for a review session to best prepare the students for their test, because I could be the last resort of them spotting their mistakes before they lose it on the exam.

Being able to tutor previous math subjects I haven't touched on in two years was also very helpful for my recalling skills. I remember struggling to learn in Calc 2 and thought some of the topics weren't very helpful or just overall confusing. Being able to go back a few years down the line, and with my better knowledge in math, understanding the topic, was very interesting to

see how my knowledge had shaped my college career. With this, it made tutoring the topics a lot easier, since I had such a better understanding of the classes retrospectively. I would recommend anyone who plans on continuing their career in the world of math to join the UTA program, as it really gives you an insight into the world of teaching, and a newfound appreciation for those who teach it and really understand it.