

# INVESTING IN COLLEGE TEACHERS OF THE FUTURE: ENSURE AND ENHANCE TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HDFS GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is intent on preparing Ph.D. students to become top-notch research scholars and outstanding instructors able to make their mark in the world of higher education. Critical ingredients to becoming an outstanding instructor include immersion in mentored teaching experiences and hands-on opportunities to learn about and develop innovative instructional techniques.

- HDFS seeks funds to help ensure these kinds of career-boosting, teaching-focused opportunities for our graduate students so that they emerge from our Ph.D. program as confident, effective, and enthusiastic scholar-instructors who are competitive on the job market.

HDFS is uniquely positioned to offer high-quality, teaching-focused opportunities and mentorship for graduate students. Our faculty, who serve as teaching mentors, are consistently ranked as exceptional instructors on the UIUC campus and have won teaching and mentorship awards both at UIUC and from national organizations. The department is ranked #4 among 48 HDFS programs in North America, and #2 in the family science subfield.

## OPPORTUNITY:

With funding, what will HDFS graduate students experience?

- They will work as teaching assistants alongside our award-winning faculty and lead small-group discussion sections for undergraduate courses.
- They will serve as sole or co-instructors of selected courses both in-classroom and online, which will provide them with opportunities to create innovative course content and delivery modes.
- They will participate in HDFS-sponsored workshops led by teaching experts that will enhance their teaching skills.

What are the long-term benefits of funding these teaching opportunities?

- Graduate students will emerge from the HDFS Ph.D. program with the experience, training, and confidence needed to succeed on the competitive higher education job market.
- The HDFS department will be in a highly competitive position to attract prospective graduate students who desire to become top-notch scholar-instructors.
- HDFS undergraduates will benefit from high-quality graduate student-led, small-group course sections.



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## RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Investing in teaching-focused opportunities for graduate students in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies supports graduate students' involvement in mentored assistantships and other career-boosting opportunities (e.g., teaching-focused workshops, co-instructorships, course innovation). Ensuring these value-added experiences for graduate students will enhance our department's course offerings while successfully training the next generation of scholar-instructors in higher education.



College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences