

Department of Economics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Econ 806:
Program for Teaching
Fellows

Overview of the Teacher Training Program

The Teacher Training Program of the Department of Economics has been in operation since 1978. Beginning in 1997, the program took on its current structure.

Econ 805 provides mandatory training to teaching assistants. It is offered in the first weeks of the fall semester.

Econ 806 provides additional, mandatory, training for teaching assistants who will be teaching their own course for the first time. It is taught each year during the last half of the spring semester and the beginning of the first summer session. Many students teach their first independent courses during the summer and participate in the second module of the Teacher Training Program while preparing those courses. The successful completion of Econ 805 is a prerequisite for participation in Econ 806

In order to minimize (and in most cases eliminate) the tuition cost of Economics 805 and 806, most students register for the courses in their second year. If the student registers for Economics 806 while taking a full course load, there is no additional tuition cost to her.

Economics 806 Introduction

The Economics Department has been offering the Teacher Training Program (TTP) to graduate students since 1978. This year, I will be responsible for coordinating the course. Over the years, many of the Economics faculty have prepared materials and made presentations to the TTP, and we'll try to pass on that "received wisdom" in the Econ 806 sessions.

The purpose of the TTP is to help you develop a teaching style that is effective with your students and comfortable for you. As a student, you've noticed that studying styles and learning techniques vary across your classmates. Keep this in mind as you prepare your course. **There is no "right" way to teach, just as there is no "right" way to learn.** There are many effective teaching styles. The TTP provides you with the opportunity to learn about different effective teaching methods. TTP also provides you the opportunity to practice those methods so that you identify those most comfortable to you.

The TTP program is purely developmental. We do not evaluate your teaching for the Economics Department or for the University. The University requires that each graduate student's class be visited by a faculty member at least once a semester. This task is undertaken independently of TTP, and almost always by faculty members who did not participate in TTP.

I have pared down the content of Econ 806 to conserve your valuable time. You have many responsibilities in your second and third years, and this course should not draw you away from those. (In fact, the TTP may save you time: if you avoid problems in the classroom, you'll face fewer one-on-one reviews of the material in your office hours.)

We will meet for four 2-hour group sessions during the spring. The titles of the four sessions are on the following page. Background readings will be required for each session, and these will be distributed well in advance. You will be responsible for reading these and coming prepared. The group sessions will be quite valuable not only for the advice that I and other experienced instructors provide, but also for the opportunity to interact with your peers involved in preparing a course for the first time. There will be plenty of time during the sessions allotted to such group discussion.

The Econ 805 handbook for TTP includes a section on University regulations. You should review that material for our Econ 806 sessions as well. You'll find in that section the University regulations on grading, honor code violations, and tutoring students enrolled in your class. You'll also find University policies on racial and sexual harassment and on amorous relations between instructors and students. It will be your responsibility to know these regulations, to abide by them, and to make the structure of your course consistent with them.

I hope you enjoy this module of TTP. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

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Economics 806
Schedule

Session 1 **Planning Your Course, Preparing Your Syllabus.**

Session 2 **Student Evaluation: Writing and Grading Exams**

Session 3 **Discussion Plus: Active Learning Strategies
In the Classroom**

Session 4 **Last Minute Jitters – Preparing to Kick
off the Semester**

Dates and times to be announced.