

Teaching Statement

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The opportunity to teach is a uniquely rewarding aspect of being an academic. I have always found computers and computer science to be fascinating, and I am eager to pass this excitement on to others.

As a graduate student, I was a teaching assistant for the undergraduate compiler course, and I taught a lecture in the software engineering course regarding my thesis work. My overall teaching rating for the compiler course was 4.8 out of 5.0, one of the highest scores among the publicly-visible teaching assistant ratings at Berkeley. As an undergraduate, I was a teaching assistant for three separate undergraduate computer sciences courses, including two introductory classes as well as the undergraduate computer architecture course.

In all cases, I have found that enthusiasm goes a long way in terms of gaining students' interest and respect. One of the most important things we can do as teachers is to convey our enthusiasm for the subject at hand, since people learn much more easily when they are engaged and thinking critically about the subject. Having real-world examples in lecture or holding class competitions between student teams can also help to engage students in the subject material. Since different students learn in many different ways, it is helpful to provide a variety of ways for students to become engaged in the course material.

In addition, I believe that it is extremely important to be available to students both for questions and feedback. Individual interaction not only provides an opportunity for additional teaching, but also allows you to gauge the students' progress and your own performance as a teacher. Useful office hours (such as after class and before deadlines) as well as an approachable demeanor can help facilitate such interaction. Also, anonymous feedback forms allow students to offer feedback that they might otherwise not be willing to provide.

Finally, I believe that the integration of teaching and research can be valuable for both students and researchers. In the undergraduate software engineering course, I taught a lecture and designed an assignment based on my thesis work. This experience allowed students to learn more about current research, and it allowed me to get feedback on my work from potential users.

All in all, I have found my teaching experiences to be very rewarding, and I look forward to many future teaching opportunities.