

Tabitha Kidwell

AY 2018-19 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Education

Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership

4th year Graduate Student, TA, AA



My experiences as a graduate assistant have greatly enhanced my graduate education experience by giving me the opportunity to develop skills as both a teacher educator and an educational researcher.

Through my graduate assistantships, the support of UMD faculty has helped me grow as a teacher educator. I was instructor of record for four EDCI courses (435, 732, and twice for 638), with the support of Daisy Fredricks, Drew Fagan, and Megan Peercy, who taught those courses previously. Through teaching these courses, I learned how to prepare syllabi, design assignments, plan course sessions, communicate with students, and evaluate student progress. I also was a university supervisor for two semesters, which gave me the chance to see the challenges that novice teachers encounter. That experience helped me learn how to mentor and support novice teachers in a responsive and flexible manner.

I've built skills as an educational researcher by collaborating with Megan Peercy on research projects focused on novice teacher preparation throughout my four years at UMD (this includes four semesters and two summers formally as an RA). Under Dr. Peercy's mentorship, I gained experience collecting and analyzing data, writing for publication, and presenting at conferences. I also was a GA for Jeff MacSwan for four semesters and two summers, providing editorial assistance for an edited book. My involvement in that project gave me a deeper understanding of the review, revision, and publication process.

Serving as a GA in all these positions has provided an important complement to my coursework at UMD.