TEACHING ASSISTANT’S Guide to Admirable Qualities of a Teaching Assistant

The list represents what a group of experienced TAs at UVic have identified as admirable qualities of teaching assistants. Not all suggestions below may be applicable in all departments on campus. Please use the list as a guide only.

Admirable qualities of a teaching assistant:

- Write legibly
- Be approachable
- Be humourous
- Be honest
- Be Fair in all activities
- Be passionate about your research and what you are teaching
- Be inspirational
- Be organized and well prepared for class
- Always take the time to explain concepts so that students understand
- Be willing to try new ideas
- Be practical about expectations and duties
- Connect material to the world
- Be patient
- Be enthusiastic
- Be encouraging
- Be supportive
- Accept and acknowledge different learning styles/cultural diversity
- Have empathy
- Manage your time
- Offer praise to students

The following list was developed during the Teaching Assistant Consultants’ (TACs) seminars for the academic year, 2009-2010.