

CoE GSM Information Sheet: Michael D. Moffitt

Who is your Graduate Student Mentor?



My name is Michael D. Moffitt and I am a 4th year Ph.D. student in Computer Science & Engineering, studying artificial intelligence, constraint satisfaction, scheduling, and temporal reasoning. I have had the opportunity to teach over four semesters (twice for EECS 281, and twice for EECS 497). For more information about me, please visit my website www.eecs.umich.edu/~mmoffitt. Or, feel free to e-mail me at mmoffitt@umich.edu.

What can I do for you?

I have been trained by the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT) North to help GSIs excel in teaching. The major services I offer include:

- Objective observations of your teaching.
- Facilitating a midterm student feedback that you can use to enhance your teaching.
- Consultations on a variety of subjects such as creating an engaged classroom, concerns with time-management (in and outside of the classroom), etc.

Why should you have a Mid-Term Student Feedback (MSF) Session?

- To obtain information about how your students feel about your teaching before the end-of-term evaluation.
- To reflect on ways to enhance your instruction and confirm which techniques are working well in the classroom and in office hours.
- To poll your students about specific concerns that you have that you do not feel comfortable asking yourself.

Why should you have a classroom observation?

- To obtain a perspective on your teaching from an objective point of view when you do not have adequate class time to do a mid-term student feedback session.
- To reflect on ways to enhance your instruction and confirm which techniques are working well in the classroom.

How do you sign up?

Email your GSM (mmoffitt@umich.edu) to schedule the date. (It's a good idea to schedule the MSF/observation between the sixth and tenth week of classes—excluding Spring Break.)

Previous GSI's have said the following about the GSM program *

- "My GSM addressed my concerns about feedback in my discussion section."
- "[My GSM] was really empathetic and supportive in discussing how overwhelming it can be to carry so much responsibility in the class."
- "[My GSM] helped me to recognize ways that I was leaving some class members out of my discussions, allowing me to better connect with all the students."
- "[My GSM] was very helpful in offering services and [being] available. I did not feel that the type of observation would match with my responsibilities. But [my GSM] was willing to help in any way I needed."

* The sampled responses are compiled from all the COE GSI's who responded to the GSM survey in the Fall 2003 semester.