**Pre-Course Survey**

Using a pre-course survey is an effective way to gather information that will help you best support your students and prepare to teach. You can include survey questions that will give you information about students’ prior preparation for the course, their access to technology, the learning activities that they find most useful, their identities and the situational factors that may impact their learning. Some GSIs also like to include survey questions that give them a sense of students’ nonacademic interests, or that they can use anonymously in icebreaker activities (see the example questions below).

A pre-course survey can help students feel a sense of inclusion and belonging from the beginning of the semester—if GSIs “close the loop” by reading students’ responses and following up, where appropriate, to connect students to course and campus resources (see [Campus Resources for Section Syllabi](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q7FM6DhTTgHR7IivZn2w83LhBQhQ1LYCnoqwHhe4o-4/edit?usp=sharing) doc). Over the course of the semester, GSIs can also review students’ survey responses in preparation for individual meetings, when students appear to be struggling, or to anonymously incorporate responses into teaching activities or examples used in the classroom.

Please note that, while students may volunteer personal information on your pre-course survey, it is important not to ask questions that require them to share specific personal information (e.g., about their childcare responsibilities, disabilities). The Disabled Students’ Program (DSP) will contact the Instructor of Record for your course to provide them with specific academic accommodation needs students may have. Below are instructions and questions that you might consider using on your pre-course survey. Many GSIs use Google Forms for this survey; you can also choose to have the students fill it out in class on the first day.

Welcome to [title for your class/section/studio/lab]! I will be your GSI this fall. So that I can start to get to know you and understand how best to support your learning, please answer the questions below and submit this survey by [date and time]. NOTE: While I will know how you answer these questions, I will not share any personal information, and I will only refer to your responses in section anonymously and in aggregate\*.

1. What is your name?
2. What is your major (if declared)? What majors are you considering (if undeclared)?
3. Which of the following forms of technology will you be able to use outside of class/section/studio/lab this fall?
   * Computer/laptop
   * Tablet
   * Smart phone
   * Printer
4. Which of the following forms of technology will you be able to bring to class/section/studio/lab for learning activities?
   * Laptop
   * Tablet
   * Smart phone
5. Because we may need to pivot to remote instruction this semester, please indicate how reliable your connection to the Internet is in your living space:
   * Very reliable
   * Reliable
   * Moderately reliable
   * Unreliable
   * Very unreliable
6. Which of the following [check all that apply] are effective at helping you stay engaged with your peers and the instructor during class?
   * Large group discussions
   * Small group work
   * Polls
   * Ungraded mini quizzes
   * Graded participation assignments
   * Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Which of the following, if any, might be helpful to you this semester?
   * Optional study groups
   * A how-to session on [the skills that students will need to apply in the course, e.g., essay writing in a particular discipline, pipetting, etc.]
   * Peer review of essay drafts/lab reports/etc.
   * One-on-one writing consultations/tutoring at the Student Learning Center
   * Review sessions for exams
8. What do you want me to know about your identity? If you’d like, please include your gender pronouns and whether or not you would like me to use them when referring to you.
9. What factors, if any, might limit your full participation in this class? Do you anticipate any barriers to your learning? NOTE: Please provide only as much information as you feel comfortable sharing. You are never required to share personal information with me.\*
10. So that I can get a sense of you and your interests, please share:
    1. What media you have been enjoying recently (for example, a book, film, TV show, song or artist, etc.).
    2. One activity that you particularly enjoy doing when you are not studying.
11. Finally, I will use your anonymized answers to the following questions for community-building activities in our section.
    1. Are you a morning person or a night owl?
    2. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
    3. If you could bring only three things with you to a deserted island, what would they be and why?

\*As a GSI, I am an employee of the University and am required to report incidents of sexual harassment and sexual violence that are disclosed to me.