Policies related to Graduate Teaching Associates Assignments for Online Teaching:

1. Graduate Teaching Associates are expected to be resident while receiving assistantship support for their graduate studies and will, in nearly all cases, not receive all-online assignments.

2. Any doctoral student may request a partial online or all-online teaching assignment. However, Graduate Teaching Associates must understand that the School cannot guarantee online teaching assignments. To be assigned to a course, Graduate Teaching Associates must first meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the policy entitled “Graduate Teaching assignments Beyond COMS 103.”

3. The School understands that some doctoral students need to leave Athens for personal reasons while they continue to work on finishing their degrees. However, Graduate Teaching Associates who have moved or are contemplating moving must understand that the School cannot guarantee online teaching for non-resident Graduate Teaching Associates. Doctoral students who request online teaching assignments must express to the Director their reason for the request. If and when online teaching assignments for Graduate Teaching Associates are available, the Director, in consultation with the Graduate Committee, will prioritize the requests. Requests from doctoral students qualified to teach online classes for which there is an instructional need will generally be prioritized as follows:
   a. Doctoral students who are collecting data for their dissertation research on-site at a site located outside of the continental United States
   b. Doctoral students who are collecting data for their dissertation research on-site at a site more than 100 miles from Athens, Ohio
   c. Doctoral students enrolled in a study abroad program approved by the Office of Education Abroad that is part of the Program of Study approved by the doctoral student’s committee
   d. Doctoral students who, as part of a faculty-sponsored research or creative activity endeavor that constitutes one-half of the student’s assignment, are assigned to activities at a site more than 20 miles from Athens, Ohio
   e. Doctoral students who are collecting data for their dissertation research on-site at a site more than 20 miles, but less than 100 miles, from Athens, Ohio.
   f. Doctoral students who request online teaching for non-academic reasons (e.g., family, health).
      i. If personal health issues are the primary factor, a signed doctor’s letter must be provided that states that onsite teaching is not possible because of a major life activity that is limited by the medical condition being experienced. The letter must name the limited relevant major life activity that prevents onsite teaching, but the letter need not disclose a specific diagnosis. The letter must also provide a return-to-onsite-work date, even if it must be changed later – an ‘indefinite’ leave from onsite teaching without a return-to-onsite-work date may not be considered reasonable.

4. Graduate Teaching Associates with online courses should be available to switch to onsite teaching if low enrollments necessitate cancellation of online courses. If classes are cancelled, the School will make every effort to reassign teachers to other courses/sections. However, the School cannot guarantee reassignment to online sections. If online teaching is not available to a Graduate Teaching Associate and the Graduate Teaching Associate cannot commit to teaching in person, the Graduate Teaching Associate will need to decide if he or she will relinquish his or her teaching assistantship.
5. Graduate Teaching Associates may receive all-online assignments to classes on a semester-by-semester basis only. Typically, a Graduate Teaching Associate will not be assigned an all-online schedule for two consecutive semesters.

6. Graduate Teaching Associates teaching an all-online schedule are expected to perform School service assignments as assigned.