

Your Adviser:

Your doctoral adviser is your point person in the department. S/he helps you develop your plan of study, offers academic support, advises you about your comprehensive exams and dissertation, and monitors your overall academic progress. The adviser-student relationship is a stable one across the program.

Your Teaching Supervisor:

You are likely to have multiple teaching supervisors, depending on what teaching assignments you have in any given semester. The teaching supervisor is rarely your adviser. When you assist in a course, the instructor of that course is your teaching supervisor. When you are teaching a course, the teaching supervisor should be a faculty member from the area of study in which the course is located, who has some knowledge of or experience with the course you are assigned. S/he will offer advice for teaching, review your syllabus and exams in advance, observe your teaching, and comply with the other responsibilities laid out in the teaching contract.

Teaching Supervisor Policy

Each graduate student teaching a Communication Studies course, including an online course, must have a faculty supervisor and turn in a signed teaching contract before the beginning of the each semester of teaching. The supervisor is not always or even often the student's adviser but a faculty person familiar with the course the student is teaching and/or with whom the student may have served as a TA for the course. A faculty supervisor must be a regular member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate Faculty from Communication Studies, in other words: a tenured or tenure-track faculty member with full appointment or joint appointment in Communication Studies.