

PF & GSC Newsletter



Amir Saeidi is a 5th year PhD student in Materials and Manufacturing Technology (MMT) concentration. He is serving the engineering school both as the Pedagogical Fellow (PF) and graduate student representative this year.

As the graduate student representative, he attends Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) meetings, in which he has a vote and can add any topic that grad students are interested in into the agenda.

As the PF, he offers free and confidential consultation to you for any teaching related issues. You can contact Amir if you have any question regarding the following topics:

- Training on technology you need to use in your class.
- Issues in interaction with the instructor, TAs or students.
- Improving students' learning experience.

What is GSC?

- A committee consists of one faculty member from each department.
- What does GSC do? In GSC meetings different issues related to graduate studies are discussed, and plans, rules and regulation are made. Important topics such as funding, graduate students' internship, etc. are discussed.
- What grad students do? Attend monthly office hours to 1. Help Amir have a better perspective and to be able to be an effective representative, and 2. find ways and ideas to improve the experience of graduate students in the engineering school.

The office hours will be on February 22nd and 23rd, from 10-11am in Engineering tower 652.

Since **stress** is one of the most common issues for grad students, Amir is interested in listening your concerns, sources of stress and ideas in reducing the stress.

With questions about teaching, or to share your concerns as a graduate student, **contact Amir at saeidis@uci.edu.**

This quarter, the following workshops and opportunities are available:

**1.. Group work, an alternative way of instructing discussion sessions—
Thursday, March 1st, 3-4 pm on ET652**

Last day to register: February 28th at 11:45 pm at
https://eee.uci.edu/survey/group_work_workshop_w2018

We tend to teach the way we were taught, we lecture! However, there are alternative ways of teaching that engages students in the learning process and creates a more effective learning environment. In this workshop we will explain how you can use group work in your discussion sessions. At the end of this workshop you will be able to design and conduct an active class based on group work. Moreover, we will discuss Pedagogical and TAR fellowships and how you can apply for them.

2 . Basics of Canvas Workshop—Wednesday, March 28th, 10-11 am in ET 652

Last day to register: Tuesday, March 27th at 11:45 pm at
https://eee.uci.edu/survey/Basics_of_Canvas_workshop_Winter_2018. Please bring your laptop or tablet to the workshop.

UCI is in transition from EEE to Canvas. Canvas is easy to use, makes it possible to create an active and interactive class, and improves teaching and learning experience. To help TAs and instructors to have an easy transition, a workshop on canvas is offered. In this workshop, we will cover topics like:

- Creating and grading online assignments
- Weighing assignments
- Entering grades
- Creating announcements
- Creating groups
- Uploading files
- Creating quizzes

3. Teaching Consultations

Am I an effective TA? Are my students learning? Teachers might wonder if their teaching is effective and what other resources they can use. Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) offers consultation to instructors and teaching assistants.

- The consultant does not evaluate the teacher
- The consultation is confidential.
- You can ask DTEI to film your classes, so you can meet with a consultant to get feedback and suggestions on new teaching methods.