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**Teaching assistants who instruct preparatory mathematics to academically-challenged first-year college students.**

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Summary: Teaching preparatory mathematics to first-time college students-who come from economically impoverished high schools that have not prepared their students to do college level mathematics-can be a daunting task for teaching assistants (TAs). The preparation of TAs to assist such students in the mastery of mathematical content is a complex endeavor involving a balance between methodology and content issues related to the training of TAs from a teacher-centered perspective versus a student-centered perspective. We discuss the training of TAs who teach students who come to college with significant mathematical deficiencies, and describe a different approach for the training of college TAs. A tutor-based TA training model that borrows elements from 7-12 grade pre-service teacher preparation programs is suggested.

*Classification:* B50

*Keywords:* teaching assistants; professional development; teaching preparation

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