Graduate Assistantship Orientation

What topics are reviewed by the Graduate College in Graduate Assistant (GA) Orientation?

The major objectives for Graduate Assistant (GA) Orientation include:

1. Reviewing Graduate College resources that will be helpful to GAs
   - An overview of the Graduate College, services, and communication channels
   - Graduate education at WMU

2. Providing an introduction to their role as a GA at WMU
   - The 3 types of GAs and their related duties: Teaching Assistant (TA), Research Discovery (RD), Research Application/Service (RA)
   - Dual role as both a student and an employee
   - Overview of the additional required supplemental training including: Graduate Student Online Orientation, GA Training booklets, Sexual Assault Prevention-Graduate Online Module,
     - TAs will have additional training offered by the Office of Faculty Development
     - RDs will have additional training offered by the Office of Research and Innovation
   - GA pay information, forms, and deadlines

3. Helping to familiarize GAs with the policies and procedures they may encounter and sharing some of our best practices
   - WMU values of diversity and inclusion, notice of non-discrimination
   - Campus safety and security, WMU alert system, emergency management and procedures
   - Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
   - Securing information and data with the IT data security recommendations

4. Introducing GAs to additional training resources and campus services
   - Graduate Opportunities for Learning and Development (G.O.L.D.), Individual Development Plan
   - Brief overview of services across that campus that are there to support GAs not only in their role but also as they work with others on campus
   - Graduate Student Association and the more than 50 grad student-oriented Registered Student Organizations