

Zachary Rowan

AY 2015-16 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Fourth year doctoral student, TA



My service as a graduate assistant in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has been a critical part of my development as a professional scholar and person. As a former UMD undergraduate, the continuation of my pursuit of education in the department as a graduate assistant has enabled me to be exposed to unparalleled opportunities and mentoring. As a result, I have taken advantage of numerous research opportunities to develop a well-rounded methodological and theoretical background that will guide me throughout my career.

My assistantship also enabled me to serve as a teacher and mentor. During my first year of graduate school, I was a teaching assistant for a statistics course. As a difficult course in our undergraduate curriculum, this experience was both challenging and rewarding in that it allowed me to experience firsthand the powerful impact educators have on students.

I served as a representative in our department on a number of committees, which has allowed me to provide input on graduate student issues and also to provide mentorship to incoming students who face the difficult challenges of graduate school.

Ultimately, my experience as a graduate assistant has been vital to achieving many of my goals that I established when I decided to pursue my PhD. I believe that each of the dimensions of my service as a graduate student will be invaluable to my career and I cannot overstate enough the gratitude that I have for the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice for providing this opportunity.