Department: Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Course Information: Materials Science ME 2105

Instructor: Professor Ping Zhao

Below is information about the sections of the course, the number of LAs we expect to hire per section, and the meeting times that you will be expected to attend for each section.

Before you apply, ensure that these times fit into your schedule.

Section #	Expected Number of LAs for this section	LAs need to attend course functions at the following times:
1	1	Section 001: MWF 11 - 11:50 am lecture MW. 1-2 pm Discussion

In addition to being available for the times listed above, working as an LA also requires the following:

1. All LAs must meet weekly with their faculty member to prepare for the following week's events at a time mutually acceptable to the faculty and LA
2. **All new LAs** must be available to attend a training from 4:30pm – 8pm on Monday, August, 2026 (if you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending this training, please contact Carrie Misuraco at cmisurac@d.umn.edu)
3. **All *new* LAs** must be available to complete training on one of the following weekly times:
   Wednesdays 3-3:50pm
   Wednesdays 4-4:50pm
   Thursdays 2-2:50pm

What will an LA do in this course?

The role of the LA varies slightly in each course. Read below for more information on the LA's role in this course.

What is the role of the LA in this course?

LAs in ME 2105 (Materials Science) will have the opportunity to work closely with their peers during in-class active learning activities, including think–pair–share discussions, small-group problem solving (e.g., phase diagrams, stress–strain analysis), and worksheet-based applications. During class, LAs will circulate among

groups, ask guiding questions, and help students articulate their reasoning rather than simply providing answers. They will play a key role in fostering an interactive and inclusive learning environment while helping students connect fundamental concepts to engineering applications. LAs will also provide valuable feedback to me by identifying common challenges and misconceptions they observe during class. In addition, through weekly preparation meetings, LAs will collaborate with me to review upcoming topics, discuss effective facilitation strategies, and contribute ideas to improve student engagement and learning in the course.

How could being an LA for this course benefit you?

Serving as a Learning Assistant in ME 2105 (Materials Science) is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of core engineering concepts while developing valuable professional skills. By helping peers work through challenging topics, you will strengthen your own problem-solving abilities and gain confidence in explaining technical material skills that are highly valued in both industry and graduate school. This experience also provides hands-on practice in communication, teamwork, and leadership, all of which are essential for engineering careers. In addition, working closely with the instructor offers insight into teaching and mentoring, which can be especially beneficial if you are considering graduate studies or research. Overall, being an LA is a rewarding way to reinforce your knowledge while building skills that will support your future academic and professional goals.

Additional Questions: