

**Bio: Melissa J. Beers, Ph.D.**

Melissa (Missy) is the Program Director for Introduction to Psychology and Coordinator for Introduction to Social Psychology at Ohio State University. These two General Education courses have a combined annual enrollment of over 3,500 students. She trains and supervises as many as 40 graduate students to teach these courses each year, and as a result her research interests primarily focus on effective teaching practices, how best to prepare graduate students for college teaching, and assessment of student learning.

Missy was initially drawn to a career in industry and spent 15 years as a research/statistical consultant and data analyst. In this role, she worked with the military, government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private businesses to inform program evaluation, public relations, and strategic planning. Eventually she realized how much she missed the classroom and so began teaching a variety of courses as an adjunct at Ohio State, including Introduction to Psychology, Social Psychology, Data Analysis, and Research Methods - eventually returning to academia full time to direct Introduction to Psychology. In the last ten years she has helped over 240 graduate teaching associates prepare for their first teaching assignments. She teaches a graduate and undergraduate course in the Teaching of Psychology, and a first-year seminar on the Psychology of Harry Potter.