I teach an upper level undergraduate course for applied mathematics majors and minors in partial differential equations. For the past two years I have taught the course with a fully mastery-based grading format including extensive use of writing and oral examinations. I will discuss the successes and failures of the past two years in working on developing my students' skills for future careers, as well as their competencies in the area of partial differential equations, and how I plan to incorporate the lessons I’ve learning into my other courses. (Received September 25, 2018)