



## Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) in English Composition



The Graduate Teaching Assistantship provides English M.A., M.S., and M.F.A. students the chance to learn how to teach at the college-level. The year-long assistantship includes an internship with an English faculty member and the opportunity to teach a first-year English composition course, as well as a paid stipend.

Through a combination of theory, practice, and reflection, GTAs gain hands-on professional experience for future work as M.F.A professors, doctoral students, and part-time university instructors. One recent English GTA (Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy, MFA '19, above) went on to win Southern's prestigious J. Philip Smith Outstanding Teaching Award for Part-Time Faculty.

### Call for Applications – 2021-2022 GTA

English M.A., M.S., and MFA students are encouraged to apply for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) for the fall and spring semesters of 2021-22.

### Eligibility

An applicant must:

- Be a matriculated graduate student in Southern's English program during the 2021-22 academic year, registered for at least 6 credits of coursework (not including ENG 597) in the fall semester; and
- Have a record of strong academic achievement, based on graduate and, if applicable, undergraduate transcripts

Note: Preference will go to those with a strong record of academic achievement and writing sample. When academic achievement is similar, preference will go to applicants with prior teaching or relevant experience (e.g., tutoring, undergraduate teaching, composition internship, student teaching).

### **Description of Graduate Teaching Assistantship**

In the fall semester, graduate teaching assistants:

- Complete ENG 597 Graduate Internship in Teaching Writing and intern (observe and assist) with a full-time English faculty member in a mutually agreeable section of first-year composition
- Meet weekly with their faculty mentor for 1-3 hours to plan and discuss composition class sessions
- Meet regularly with other GTAs and mentors

Upon successful completion of the fall requirements for the assistantship - and based on staffing needs - GTAs in the spring semester:

- Teach one section of first-year composition.
- Meet regularly with their designated faculty mentor and are observed at least twice;
- Meet regularly with other GTAs and mentors.

### **Stipend**

Graduate teaching assistants receive a stipend of approximately \$4,800 for the Fall 2021 semester, to be paid in several installments. Upon successful completion of ENG 597, and depending upon English department staffing needs, GTAs will also be eligible for assignment as adjunct instructors in the English department in the Spring 2022 semester for a salary of approximately \$3,700.

### **How to Apply**

For questions or further information on the GTA, contact the English Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Joel Dodson at [dodsonj2@southernct.edu](mailto:dodsonj2@southernct.edu) or 203-392-6903. To apply:

1. Submit in the body of an email (subject line: "2021-22 GTA Application") the information requested on the GTA Application Form below
2. Attach to your email application:
  - 600-800 word essay outlining why you are a good candidate for a teaching assistantship, including an explanation of what strengths you can bring to the program and how a teaching assistantship in writing or composition will benefit you professionally.
  - current curriculum vitae (resume)
  - unofficial copies of your SCSU graduate transcripts\*

- a recent, polished academic writing sample (7 pp. min.). Your writing sample should be an analytical paper of at least seven pages in length. You may include more than one writing sample. Choose work that, in your estimation, represents your best writing.
- two confidential faculty recommendation letters, preferably at least one of whom is a member of Southern's English faculty, to be sent directly to [dodsonj2@southernct.edu](mailto:dodsonj2@southernct.edu)

\*Note: first time applicants to the English Graduate program may use the letters of recommendation and undergraduate transcripts included with their graduate application. Please note accordingly with your email submission.

Submit all application materials electronically to the English Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Joel Dodson at [dodsonj2@southernct.edu](mailto:dodsonj2@southernct.edu) (subject line: 2021-22 GTA Application).

### **Application Deadline**

Application materials are due by **noon Friday, ~~April 9~~ April 16, 2021. (extended)**

### **Selection and Notification**

The Graduate Committee will conduct interviews with selected applicants soon after the deadline. Based on the interview and application materials, the committee will select up to three students for assistantships, contingent on funding and schedule availability for mentors and teaching assistants. We begin notifying GTA recipients in mid-April.

# Graduate Teaching Assistantship in Composition Application Form

Southern CT State University  
Department of English

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email Address:**

## **Undergraduate Education**

**Degree / Major:**

**Institution and Year Granted:**

**GPA (Overall):**

**GPA (English):**

## **Graduate Education**

**Date Matriculated in SCSU English Graduate Program:**

**Degree Pursued (MA, MS, MFA, MAT-ENG):**

**Concentration / Research Interests:**

**Number of Credits Completed:**

**GPA:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_