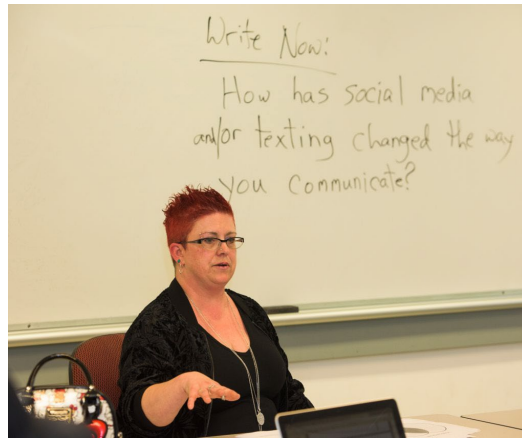




## 2025-26 Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) in English Composition



Each academic year, the Graduate Teaching Assistantship provides two English MA/MS or MFA 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, pictured above) went on to win Southern's prestigious J. Philip Smith Outstanding Teaching Award for Part-Time Faculty.

### Call for Applications

English M.A., M.S., MFA, and MAT-ENG students are encouraged to apply for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) for the fall and spring semesters of next academic year.

### Eligibility

An applicant must:

- Be a matriculated graduate student in Southern's English program during the upcoming academic year, registered full-time in the fall semester (9

- credits) and at least part-time (3-6 credits) in the spring;
- 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 and Responsibilities**

During the fall semester, graduate teaching assistants:

- Take ENG 597 Graduate Internship in Teaching Writing and intern (observe and assist) with a full-time English faculty member in a designated section of ENG 110 or ENG 112 first-year composition. (*Note:* while we will do our best to team interns with a section of first-year composition at a mutually agreeable time, acceptance of the GTA requires scheduling flexibility.)
- Meet weekly with their faculty mentor for 1-3 hours to plan and discuss composition class sessions, and to discuss composition pedagogy, theory, and syllabus design practices
- Meet regularly with other GTAs and mentors

During the spring semester, based upon successful completion of the fall requirements for the assistantship and available staffing needs, graduate teaching assistants will:

- Teach one section of first-year composition, pending scheduling and availability, for applicable part-time / adjunct faculty pay;
- Meet regularly with their designated faculty mentor for feedback and classroom observation;
- Meet regularly with other GTAs and mentors.

## **Stipend and Pay**

Graduate teaching assistants receive a stipend of \$4,800 for the Fall 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 semester for a salary of approximately \$4,500.

## **How to Apply**

For questions or further information on the GTA, contact the English Graduate Coordinator. To apply:

1. Submit in the body of an email (subject line: “2024-2025 GTA Application”) the information requested on the GTA Application Form below

2. Attach to your email application:

- 500 word personal statement 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 the English Graduate Coordinator via email ([petriep1@southernct.edu](mailto:petriep1@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. Paul R. Petrie, at [petriep1@southernct.edu](mailto:petriep1@southernct.edu) (subject line: GTA Application).

### **Application Deadline**

Application materials are due by **April 1** (no kidding).

### **Selection and Notification**

Members of the Graduate Committee and Writing Coordinator will conduct interviews with selected applicants after the deadline.

Based on the interview and application materials, the committee will select up to two students for assistantships, contingent on funding and schedule availability for mentors and teaching assistants. We will begin notifying GTA recipients by the end of April.

**Graduate Teaching Assistantship in English Composition  
Applicant Information Page**

*Please attach or include the following information in the body of your email application*

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: