

# TOW Mission Statement, Goals, and Outcomes

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Teaching of Writing specialization at SIUE is to offer students a thorough, professional grounding in the theory, research methodology, history, and practice of the teaching of writing. [4.4.03]

The Teaching of Writing specialization, as one program of study within the Masters of Arts in English, makes a specific contribution to SIUE's Graduate School mission "to provide students with the intellectual ability to understand, create, integrate, and apply sophisticated discipline specific knowledge." This specialization, which originated in 1986, responded to the need for a composition and rhetoric M.A. program in southern Illinois and the St. Louis metropolitan area. In Fall 2001, the program was updated to better prepare its students for a variety of writing-related careers.

[4.4.03]

## Goals with related Objectives:

Note: Underneath each goal are objectives, or ways in which students might meet the goal. Students do not have to do each of the objectives to meet the goal. In addition, students may meet the goal in other ways not listed.

1. Students will learn current theories, concepts, and models for the teaching of writing.
  - Read, discuss, and write about pedagogical issues and theories
  - Develop teaching documents (syllabi, etc.) grounded in appropriate theories, concepts, and models
  
2. Students will understand the connection between rhetorical history, current theory, and practice.
  - Read, discuss, and write about rhetorical issues in historical context
  - Read, discuss, and write about current rhetorical theories
  - Analyze and synthesize history, theory, and research in exit exam papers

3. Students will become effective writers and communicators.
  - Write documents in several genres (including syllabi, course/term papers, research proposals, curriculum vitae)
  - Give oral presentations
  - Write exit exam papers
  - Confer with faculty
  - Form study or writing groups
  - Participate in the discourse of the professional community
  - Attend professional conferences
  - Participate in listservs or other discussion forums
  - Participate in committee meetings
  - Read professional journals in the field
4. Students will develop and apply analytical thinking about critical issues and current debates in the field of composition and rhetoric.
  - Read and analyze research reports and scholarly articles in the field
  - Participate in listservs or other forums for disseminating knowledge
  - Apply issues in seminar, conference, or published papers
  - Demonstrate synthesis of knowledge in exit papers
5. Students will gain practical experience in the teaching of writing.
  - Teach or co-teach writing classes
  - Work with a mentor teacher
  - Observe other teachers
  - Develop syllabi, lesson plans, and other teaching material
  - Prepare professional teaching portfolio for review
  - Assess and comment on student writing
  - Conference with students
  - Tutor in a Writing Center
6. Students will understand the impact of technology on writing and the teaching of writing.
  - Explore the uses of technology in writing pedagogy
  - Analyze the ways in which technology influences the writing process
  - Critique the ideological foundations and pedagogical implications of different digital technologies

7. Students will understand the values, standards, practices, and ethics of the profession.

- Examine ethical principles for conducting and reporting research
- Study the ethics of teaching
- Review student privacy laws
- Work with a mentor teacher
- Confer with faculty
- Be observed while teaching
- Prepare professional teaching portfolio for review
- Obtain feedback on professional writing
- Prepare job materials

8. Students will learn common research methodologies in the field.

- Examine historical, theoretical, empirical, and action research methodologies
- Investigate the types of accepted evidence in various types of research
- Examine principles of data collection, analysis, reliability, and validity in research
- Write an empirical research proposal and other types of seminar papers

[4.4.03]

## Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of current theories, concepts, and models for the teaching of writing.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the connection between rhetorical history, current theory, and practice in their final exit papers.

**Related Grad School Goal: Breadth & Depth of knowledge in the discipline**

- Students will write and communicate effectively.

**Related Grad School Goal: Effectively communicate knowledge in the discipline**

- Students will apply analytical thinking about critical issues and current debates in the field of composition and rhetoric.
- Students will connect rhetorical history, current theory, and practice.

**Related Grad School Goal: Demonstrate an ability for analytical thinking in the discipline**

- Students will teach writing.
- Students will incorporate technology into their teaching of writing.
- Students will demonstrate that they understand the values, standards, and ethics of the profession.

**Related Grad School Goal: Exhibit the best practices, values, and ethics of the profession**

- Students will use common research methodologies in the field.
- Students will teach writing

**Related Grad School Goal: Apply knowledge of the discipline**

[4.4.03]

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**Teaching of Writing home**

**Dept of English home**