

# English — Teaching Of Writing

## Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in English, Teaching of Writing (TOW) Specialization

## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Teaching of Writing

## Teaching of Writing at SIUE

The Department of English Language and Literature's teaching of writing specialization in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE offers students a thorough grounding in theory, research methodology, history, and practice of the teaching of writing. The program consists of two degrees: an MA specialization in the teaching of writing and a post-baccalaureate certificate in the teaching of writing. Students completing either degree will be prepared to teach writing and writing pedagogy, as well as conduct research in composition studies. The program at SIUE will give students a well-rounded background in the field.

Over the past 40 years, rhetoric-composition studies has become a growing and vibrant discipline within English studies. As a result of the professionalization of the discipline and the increased importance of writing in community colleges and universities across the country, many schools now advertise for writing teachers with a degree in rhetoric-composition (or teaching of writing).

Many graduates continue their careers in middle and secondary schools. Others have gained tenure-track or adjunct positions at community colleges, including Southwestern Illinois Community College, Lewis & Clark, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, Spoon River College (IL), Reading Area Community College (PA), and others. Some students have gone on to PhD work at Purdue University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, the University of New Mexico, Texas Tech University, Carnegie-Mellon University, the University of South Carolina, Illinois State University, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all post-secondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose: A three- to five-page paper which explains how the applicant became interested in the field of Teaching of Writing, what the applicant hopes to learn in the program, and how that learning will help the applicant in a career.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at [graduateadmissions@siue.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@siue.edu).

Review the SIUE Admissions Policy for more information.

## Graduation Requirements

In order to complete the program, the student will consult with the graduate advisor to create a three-person graduate faculty committee who will oversee the student's development of pertinent reading lists and the student's successful completion of three research-based essays on topics determined by the committee and student.

Review the graduation policy for more information.



## Faculty

**Graduate Program Director**  
**Catherine Seltzer, PhD**  
University of North Carolina

**Maggie Black, PhD**  
University of Wisconsin

**Brian R. Henderson, PhD**  
University of South Carolina

**Matthew S.S. Johnson, PhD**  
Indiana University

**Anushiya Ramaswamy, PhD**  
University of Nevada-Reno

## Curriculum

### Required primary courses (18 credit hours)

- ENG 552-Academic Writing and Research Methods
- ENG 554-Composition Pedagogy
- ENG 556-Theory of Composition and Rhetoric
- ENG 558-Practicum in the Teaching of Writing
- ENG 583-History of Rhetoric I-The Classical Period to the Renaissance
- ENG 596-Preparatory Reading/Teaching of Writing (exit project)

Students are required to complete three of the following secondary courses (three credit hours each):

- ENG 486 Teaching Creative Writing
- ENG 570 Teaching African American Oral and Written Tradition
- ENG 572 Theory and Practice of Teaching Writing with Computers
- ENG 574 Basic Writing Theory and Pedagogy
- ENG 576 Writing Across the Curriculum
- ENG 578 Gender, Language, and Pedagogy
- ENG 581 Topics in Teaching Writing
- ENG 584 History of Rhetoric II-The Enlightenment to Today
- ENG 587 Politics of Composition Pedagogy

One of the secondary courses can also be fulfilled with one of the following linguistics courses: ENG 400 Principles of Linguistics, 541 Discourse Analysis, or 544 Reading and Writing Pedagogy in Teaching English as a Second Language.

### Elective course (three credit hours):

400- or 500-level ENG course (e.g., technical, expository or creative writing; pedagogy; linguistics, literature).

Students are required to complete one of the following options (nine credit hours inside or outside of the English Department):

- Three courses in the same foreign language
- Three TESL/linguistics courses
- Three literature courses
- Three creative writing courses
- Three computer and/or internet-based courses
- Three literacy and/or reading courses

Alternative three-course sequence to be determined by student in consultation with graduate advisor (e.g., courses in curriculum and instruction, mass communications, or instructional technology). Course work used to fulfill this option may be completed while student is a candidate in the teaching of writing specialization or may have been completed during the five years immediately preceding entrance to the program.

## Post-Baccalaureate Certificate - Teaching of Writing

The teaching of writing post-baccalaureate certificate is designed for students seeking graduate work in composition pedagogy and research but not wishing to commit to a two-year MA program. The certificate program offers substantive, comprehensive study in a relatively brief time and is intended for students teaching or planning to teach on the university, community college, high school and middle-school levels.

### Required courses (12 hours)

552 Academic Writing and Research Methods in Composition Studies  
554 Composition Pedagogy  
556 Theory of Composition and Rhetoric  
558 Practicum in the Teaching of Writing

### Electives (6 hours) selected from

486 Teaching Creative Writing  
490 Advanced Composition  
491 Technical Writing  
492 Advanced Fiction Writing  
493 Advanced Poetry Writing  
541 Discourse Analysis  
570 Teaching African American Oral and Written Tradition  
572 Theory and Practice of Teaching Writing with Computers  
574 Basic Writing Theory and Pedagogy  
576 Writing Across the Curriculum  
578 Gender, Language, and Pedagogy  
581 Topics in Teaching Writing  
583 History of Rhetoric I - The Classical Period to the Renaissance  
584 History of Rhetoric II - The Enlightenment to Today  
587 Politics of Composition Pedagogy  
592 Creative Writing

## Contact Information

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