

English — Teaching of Writing

Degrees Available at SIUE

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

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Teaching of Writing

Program Format

The program can be completed through traditional daytime courses and courses offered on evenings/weekends.

Teaching of Writing at SIUE

The teaching of writing specialization at SIUE introduces students to some of the key theoretical, institutional and pragmatic questions that currently circulate about the teaching of writing. Students will be provided with a glimpse at the long and varied history of writing instruction, exposure to key pedagogical questions, and the opportunity to engage a variety of pressing contemporary questions under the guidance of experienced faculty (recent special topics courses have focused on anti-racist writing assessment, activist teaching, and literacy as a civil right).

Students completing this program will be prepared to teach college-level writing, critically reflect on writing curriculum and literacy questions more broadly, and, for licensed secondary teachers, be prepared to teach AP or dual-credit writing courses. Some students draw on the knowledge they gain to present their ideas at national or regional conferences.

Our flexible curriculum is designed to accommodate both full-time students who wish to graduate in two years, as well as working students who need to pursue their degree on a part-time basis. Full-time students are encouraged to apply for our competitive graduate teaching assistantships, which offers practical experience in the teaching of first-year writing under the mentorship of experienced faculty.

What can I do with a teaching of writing specialization?

Many graduates continue their careers in middle and secondary schools or accept full time or adjunct positions at community colleges. Some of our graduates choose to pursue PhD programs in rhetoric and composition.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary 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.



Faculty

Graduate Program Director
Catherine Seltzer, PhD
University of North Carolina

Maggie Black, PhD
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Brian R. Henderson, PhD
University of South Carolina

Matthew S.S. Johnson, PhD
Indiana University

Anushiya Ramaswamy, PhD
University of Nevada-Reno

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.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 30
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Curriculum

Required primary courses (12 credit hours)

- ENG 556-Theory of Composition and Rhetoric
- ENG 558-Writing: Teaching and Practice
- 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 five of the following secondary courses (three credit hours each, 15 credit hours total):

- ENG 486 Teaching Creative Writing
- ENG 552 Academic Writing and Research Methods OR ENG 541 Graduate Research Methods
- ENG 554 Composition Pedagogy (required for Teaching Graduate Assistants)
- 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). Coursework used to fulfill this option may be completed while a 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 Writing: Teaching and Practice

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

Department of English Language and Literature
College of Arts and Sciences
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Phone: 618-650-2151 or 618-650-2060
Email: english@siue.edu