

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
APPLICATION for GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION**

**PRIORITY DEADLINE:** applications must be received by January 31 (for the following academic year). Decisions will normally be made in early February.

Note: Applications will be accepted after the priority deadline; please confirm openings with Director of Graduate Studies Catherine Seltzer (cseltze@siue.edu).

The [application form](#) should be saved and then attached to an email along with the statement of purpose and writing sample (both saved in pdf format) to [englishgrad@siue.edu](mailto:englishgrad@siue.edu).

Please note that only classified graduate students in English may apply for an English GAship.

**Graduate students admitted to the program who are already taking** courses should attach the following documents to their e-mails:

- the Graduate Assistantship Application packet
- a “Teaching Statement of Purpose” (see next page)
- writing sample (see next page)

These students should also:

- request at least one letter of recommendation from a faculty member *addressing teaching potential* be sent to [englishgrad@siue.edu](mailto:englishgrad@siue.edu).

**Students applying simultaneously for a GAship and to the English Graduate Program** must submit the following in addition to those materials submitted in application to the English Graduate Program:

- the Graduate Assistantship Application packet
- a “Teaching Statement of Purpose” (see below)
- writing sample (see below)

**TEACHING STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

These statements must be 750-1,000 words in length. It is imperative that applicants discuss their interests, desires, and abilities to teach English Composition at SIUE. Applicants may critically reflect upon past English classes they have either taken or taught. Applicants should discuss their own emerging teaching philosophies, ideas about what makes for effective teaching of writing, what pedagogical strategies might be employed, the role and function of writing assessment in the classroom, or any other important experience or aspect of teaching that would be helpful to demonstrate teaching potential at SIUE.

**WRITING SAMPLE**

A writing sample is required for the GA application. The sample must be between 5 and 12 pages, and must be scholarly argumentative/expository prose.