



ENGLISH GRADUATE GUIDELINES

ASSISTANTSHIPS

2024 - 2025

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English Graduate Guidelines: Assistantships

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English Graduate Guidelines: Assistantships

The English Department employs a large number of graduate teaching assistants each year. Assistantships are thus available to most students who qualify for them and apply early. Depending on the levels of experience and areas of emphasis, teaching assistants may tutor in the Writing Center or teach their own sections of first year composition for international students, technical writing, creative writing, or literature.

Teaching Methodology Courses

All teaching assistants, regardless of experience, must take an appropriate pedagogy course or courses during their first year of teaching at OSU. Depending on the area of emphasis and teaching assignment, they may take:

- ENGL 5213 Composition and Theory and Pedagogy
- ENGL 5223 Professional Writing Theory and Pedagogy
- ENGL 5243 Teaching English as a Second Language
- ENGL 5201 Writing Center Theory and Pedagogy

First Year Teachers

Teaching assistants who have not previously taught English typically spend the first semester or year of their assistantships as tutors in the Writing Center. During this year, they also take an appropriate pedagogy course (see list above) and observe experienced teachers.

Course Load

Each Fall and Spring semester a teaching assistant teaches six credit hours (two 3 hour courses) or work twenty hours in the Writing Center. A few assistantships are available for students who assist in editing the Cimarron Review, American Indian Quarterly or with the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) program. Customarily, teaching assistants take no more than six to seven hours of graduate coursework per semester. After candidacy, doctoral students may drop to taking two credit hours per semester. Requests to take more than six hours must be made in writing to the English Department Head. Some assistantships are available in the summer, during which a teaching assistant teaches three hours and enrolls in at least two hours.

Tuition Waivers

All students with assistantships pay in-state tuition rates; meaning that the University waives the non-resident portion of the tuition. The University will also pay the remaining resident tuition for up to nine hours for qualifying courses each fall and spring semester. In addition, teaching assistants also receive a monthly stipend during the academic year and single-person health insurance.

Students are responsible for resident tuition for all courses taken in excess of this limit and for all fees.

Time Limits

A teaching assistant not on academic probation is eligible for financial support under the following conditions:

- MA and MFA students receive three years of funding.
- PhD students receive five years of funding.

Funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress towards the degree. If exceptional circumstances exist, a student in the last year of funding may, with the support of their advisor, petition the Head of the English Department for an additional year's funding. Such cases will be judged on an individual basis and in light of Departmental policies and staffing needs.

Under no circumstances will a seventh year of support be available.

Non-native Speakers of English

All persons for whom English is a second language are required to demonstrate an acceptable level of spoken English before admission and before being employed in an instructionally related capacity.

Please Note: The English Department admission requirements are HIGHER than the Graduate College

admission requirements.

*OSU does not accept Duolingo proficiency scores

To be eligible for a teaching assistantship, students whose native language is not English must submit current scores from one of the following:

- TOEFL iBT: Minimum Speaking, Reading and Writing Skills scores of 26 and total overall score of no less than 100
- IELTS: Minimum Speaking, Reading and Writing Skills scores of 7.0 and a total overall score of no less than 7.0

They must also attend the International Teaching Assistant (TA) orientation, which is administered on campus before the beginning of each semester.

To Apply

Prospective students who wish to apply for an assistantship should do so as instructed on the admission application.

Students normally apply for assistantships at the time of admission. However, applications may also be considered from current students who should write a brief letter of application to the Graduate Director. The letter should indicate preferences (if any) for Writing Center, First-Year Composition, Technical Writing, or International Composition. Students should also include a CV or resumes, scholarly writing sample, and a statement that describes teaching experience (if any) and explains how an assistantship would connect to their graduate studies.

**Assistantships begin in the fall semester, and most are awarded during the January admissions process.