

Graduate Assistantships
Department of English
Texas State University
2027-2028

The Department of English awards two types of assistantships for the 2027-28 school year: Instructional Assistantships and Teaching Assistantships. There are no single-semester graduate assistantships in English.

Current graduate students and applicants for graduate study are eligible to apply for appointments as **Instructional Assistants** (IAs). Those who have already completed 18 graduate hours in English with no grade less than a “C” and who have sufficient teaching experience may be considered for appointments as **Teaching Assistants** (TAs). Conditionally admitted students to our English graduate programs are not eligible for assistantships.

All graduate assistants must hold a baccalaureate degree on their first day of appointment and have at least 9 required credit hours remaining to complete their degree plan during the year in which they will hold an appointment. No exception to this requirement will be granted.

IAs and TAs who demonstrate either unsatisfactory work performance or unsatisfactory work attendance may be warned by the supervisor and given time to correct the problem or be dismissed immediately. IAs who resign during the academic year must reapply to be considered for further graduate assistantships.

Instructional Assistants. Duties of IAs vary. Many IAs assist in large literature courses taught by lead teachers; IAs attend lectures, operate media equipment, grade papers, and, in some cases, conduct review sessions. Instructional Assistants “assist” the Teacher of Record/Instructor and should carry out the tasks or responsibilities assigned to them, unless they are asked to carry out a task that is illegal or unethical. Other IAs may be placed in the Writing Center where they will develop skills in one-to-one conferencing and may assist the Director by fulfilling some administrative duties. At midterm and at the end of the semester, IA supervisors submit evaluations of IAs to the Department of English IA Coordinator.

During their initial semester in the program, **IAs must take English 5372** (Practicum in English Studies), a three-credit course for instructional assistants in English. Although this course will be transcribed, it does not count toward degree credit. Enrollment in this course will be at no cost to the IA. IAs are also required to attend a one-day training workshop the week before Fall 2026.

Instructional assistantships are granted for one year only; IAs who wish to become TAs must complete the 18 requisite hours in English. IAs earn \$15,219.81 per academic year (2026-2027), paid in 9 monthly installments beginning the first working day of October.

Teaching Assistants. TAs teach their own sections of first-year English under the supervision of the Director of Lower-Division Studies, typically two sections in the fall and one section in the spring. However, continuance as a TA is contingent on favorable supervisor evaluations.

All TAs are required to complete online modules over the summer of 2026, attend a one-day training workshop the week before the Fall 2027 semester, and attend a one-day training workshop

before Spring semester in January 2028. TAs who have NOT formerly been IAs in the Department of English must enroll in three hours of credit for **English 5382** (Practicum in Composition) in conjunction with these workshops. Although this course will be transcribed, it does not count toward degree credit. Enrollment in this course will be at no cost to the TA.

First-year TAs earn \$16,910.82 per academic year (2027-2028), paid in 9 monthly installments beginning the first working day of October.

Benefits. IAs and TAs are eligible for in-state tuition rates.

Length of Appointments. IAs and TAs are hired during the spring and begin their duties in August. Appointments are renewable, **depending on favorable evaluation**, but may not exceed a total of two years for MA students or three years for MFA students. Any exception to these limits will be specified in the initial letter of appointment. Shorter limits will apply to candidates who have completed some degree requirements prior to appointment.

Course Load. As a condition of continuing employment, graduate assistants must take nine credit hours of course work in each long semester (Fall and Spring) with two possible exceptions: 1) With permission from their graduate advisor, graduate assistants may be allowed to take twelve hours; 2) With a waiver from the Graduate College, graduate assistants may be allowed to take less than 9 credit hours for one of their semesters. Apply to the Director of Graduate Studies for a waiver: malit@txstate.edu.

As previously noted, in the final year of their program, graduate assistants must have at least 12 required credit hours remaining to complete in their degree plan.

IAs should consult with their graduate directors prior to enrolling for their first semesters, and all graduate assistants should periodically request degree audits from their respective programs.

Conversion from IA to TA Status. Those initially hired as IAs may be offered subsequent appointments as TAs. This change of status, however, depends on the student's qualifications (including receiving a "C" or better in at least 18 graduate hours in English and positive IA evaluations), the number of available TA positions, and the needs of the Department. The change is not automatic.

Outside Employment.

Because the IA/TA workload in a typical week consists of 20 work hours, in addition to 9 graduate hours, outside employment is discouraged. Assistantships are subject to the same Regents' Rules that apply to all faculty. These rules state that "faculty should be discouraged from accepting regular employment outside the component University. . . . Any outside employment must be approved in advance by the Chair of the Department."

Further, anyone who is employed by any university or State of Texas organization in any role that classifies their employment status as a "non-exempt" is not eligible for an assistantship.