

**Department of English**  
**University of Alaska Anchorage**  
**Teaching Assistantship Application**  
last updated on October 2, 2008

Teaching Assistants (TA's) have the unique honor of developing professionally with the guidance of our department's experienced teachers. TAs are chosen based on their potential to be dynamic, thoughtful instructors of first-year composition courses.

**Teaching Assistantships include the following benefits:**

- Health insurance for the graduate student.
- Stipends for both fall and spring semesters
  - previous stipends for fall: \$3,000.00.
  - previous stipends for spring: \$3,600.00.
- Tuition waiver for up to nine graduate hours.

**Teaching Assistantships include the following requirements:**

- Required two week intensive training session at UAA. The training will take place in August, prior to their first fall semester on campus. Payment for the training is included in the stipend. Training dates will be posted in May 2009.
- Enrollment and successful completion of Composition Theory ENGL 687 during the first fall semester of their course work.
- Teaching ENGL A111 in the fall semester. TA's will be guided by a faculty mentor.
- The remaining three semesters will entail teaching two ENGL A111 courses each semester.
- Teaching Assistants will be evaluated during and at the end of each semester to enable them to continue with their assistantship.
- Students will be required to pay their own fees which run slightly less than \$300.00 per semester.

**Teaching Assistantships do not include:**

- Summer work.
- Parking permits, which must be purchased by the student.

Recipients of Teaching Assistantships will be contacted by general letter and/or e-mail from the department. TAs will receive training dates and any other forms or information needed by the department.

## Application Instructions

**Deadline for all application materials to be physically present in the English Department is April 13 2009.**

**Your application for admission to the English Department Graduate Program must be in process to be considered for an assistantship.**

Your application must include the following:

1. Evidence of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in your undergraduate major. **Unofficial photocopies of college transcripts** are acceptable.
2. **Curriculum Vita or work resume.**
3. A **250–500-word cover letter** explaining your interest in a teaching assistantship which should include any experience and/or qualities you have that prepare you to be a writing teacher. Please include your current address, phone, and e-mail.
4. **Two (2) letters of reference** that address your capabilities as a potential teaching assistant (for example organization, enthusiasm, responsibility, etc.).
5. In addition to the cover letter, submit a **250 – 500 word response** to the following questions:
  1. Based on your experiences as a student and/or teacher, what are your beliefs about writing instruction in a first-year composition class?
  2. What do you expect will be your strengths as a writing teacher? In your answer, refer to these three characteristics: your ability to work with others, your work ethic, and your problem-solving ability.

No incomplete files will be considered. You are responsible to ensure that your application file is complete and in the Department of English by April 13. We will not contact you about missing items.

If you have any questions about your file, or about items that have been sent or are missing, please contact:

Debbie DeBaun  
Administrative Secretary, Department of English, UAA  
907.786.4355  
[andd1@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:andd1@uaa.alaska.edu)

We will notify applicants of admission decisions as quickly as possible after May 1 of the application year.