



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AT IUPUI

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING WRITING

Engaging Writers, Achieving Literacy

This 20-hour graduate certificate in teaching writing is a structured program designed for licensed middle school and high school teachers, current M.A. students, and university and college faculty in writing and other subject areas who wish to enhance their professional teaching careers. Credits earned in the certificate can be applied to an M.A. in English upon acceptance into that degree program.

The certificate offers students an opportunity to explore the theories and best practices that promote learning and lead to improvement in student writing. It enables students

- to understand and apply recent approaches and philosophies in teaching writing,
- to understand the nature of the “writing process” and how it can be effectively taught,
- to create effective writing assignments with support activities and assessment tools,
- to recognize and utilize linguistic diversity in the context of teaching edited American English,
- to acquire an informed, reflective, research-based approach to major issues in teaching writing,
- to investigate the uses of technology in writing as a process and product,
- to develop and articulate a clearer sense of one’s own theory of teaching writing,
- to understand writing as a learned activity and how one learns to write, and
- to develop confidence in oneself as a writer and use one’s own writing practice to develop writing curriculum.

In addition, opportunities are available to participate in institutes and workshops offered by the Hoosier Writing Project and earn credits toward the certificate. Credit-bearing internships are available for hands-on experiences with IUPUI’s Writing Center and with the *Journal of Teaching Writing*, a national publication for writing teachers at all educational levels.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the certificate program requires only one of the following:

- (1) Successful completion of a B.A. with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (out of 4.0) or the equivalent from an accredited institution; or
- (2) Current enrollment as a graduate student at IUPUI; or
- (3) Successful completion of an M.A. degree or higher at an accredited university; or
- (4) State certification in middle school or high school teaching.

An online application with instructions is available via the English Department’s website. For more information on how to apply, see the contact information.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students confer with their graduate certificate adviser in planning their selection of elective courses. Student learning outcomes are assessed in individual courses through reflective writing assignments, formal research-based papers, and the practice of creating and evaluating teaching materials. Some courses may require that students prepare a portfolio. Students complete course evaluation forms for each course and meet with their adviser in the fall or spring term. An advising record for each student in the program is kept on file by the certificate adviser.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Teachers earn the certificate by satisfactorily completing five graduate courses and a minimum of 20 credit hours. The five courses consist of one core course and four elective courses. Major topics include theories and methods of teaching writing; understanding linguistic diversity; uses of technology in writing; social aspects of writing development; non-fiction writing; writing assessment; and teacher-research. Four graduate credit hours may be taken at another accredited institution with approval by the program director.

CURRICULUM

Core course (4 credit hours/1 course)

- W509 Introduction to Writing and Literacy Studies

Elective courses (16 credit hours)

4 credit hour courses:

- W500 Teaching Writing: Issues and Approaches
- W508 Graduate Creative Writing for Teachers
- W510 Computers in Composition (4 cr.)
- W531 Designing and Editing Visual Technical Communication
- W590 Teaching Composition: Theory and Practice
- W600 Topics: Written English—Living Cultural Realities
- W600 Topics: Qualitative Research in Writing and Literacy Studies
- W600 Topics: Basic Writing Pedagogy
- W600 Topics: Teaching Technical and Professional Writing
- W605 Writing Project Summer Institute
- W615 Graduate Creative Non-fiction Writing

Variable credit hour courses:

- W609 Individual Writing Projects (1-4 cr.) (requires prior approval)
- W697 Independent Study in Writing (1-3 cr.) (Writing Project Advanced Institute)
- Other courses as approved

CONTACT US

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