

M.A. in English Teaching Assistantship Program

FULTON SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS



What Is a Teaching Assistantship (TA)?

Each semester, you'll teach one or two sections of First Year Writing (FYW), which at SU is English 103. In return for this, we pay your tuition (minus fees) plus give you a \$15,000 stipend for the year. The TA-ship is for 20 hours/week. Once you're offered a TA-ship, it is automatically renewed each semester providing that you are in good academic standing with the department, have fulfilled your contractual teaching duties, and have received positive teaching evaluations from your supervisor (the director of FYW).

TAs teach a total of six courses across their four semesters in a 1-2-2-1 pattern. Your first semester, as you acclimate to campus and being a graduate student, you'll teach one course. The following two semesters you'll teach two courses; and your final semester, you teach one course to account for writing your thesis and/or job searching.

TA Training: What to Expect

- **August Training** › TAs start in the fall semester; two weeks prior to the start of the semester, you'll gather for training with the other new and returning TAs in the program. You'll review teaching materials (assignments, schedules, syllabi) and engage in collaborative work to improve your pedagogy (e.g., how to respond to student writing, how to lesson plan, how to run activities, etc.).
- **Weekly Staff Meetings** › In addition to this start-of-semester training, you are required to come to a weekly practicum meeting. Run the director of FYW (your supervisor), the practicum is a time to check in on the past week and to plan for the upcoming week. We also use this time to share lessons and activities and discuss common teaching questions.
- **ENGL 565: Composition Theory** › Every new TA is required to take this course in your first semester, where you will learn about the approaches and practices that will inform your teaching in English 103.

Financial Aspects of Being a TA: What You Can Expect

Stipend (for Academic Year);	\$15,000 (before taxes)	Paid every two weeks during semesters (approximately Aug. 15-Dec. 30; and Jan. 25-May 31).
Approximate housing cost/month in Salisbury	\$730+	Most graduate students live in a shared apartment or house. Most single-person apartments start around \$1,100. There are many options for both.
Approximate food cost/month (per person)	\$340	This amount varies per person, and there are several food stores and eateries in the area.
SU Fees (not included in tuition remission)	\$111/credit (about \$900-1,000/semester)	Your fees pay for access to the gym, lab resources, etc. You are an SU student and can participate in any extracurriculars you'd like! Some grads have participated in theatre, club sports, etc.



Living in the Salisbury Area

While Salisbury is the largest city on the Delmarva Peninsula (which is made up of parts of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia), in many ways it feels more like a big town or small city. At a little over 14 square miles and with about 33,000 residents, many amenities can be found throughout the city, especially along the Route 13 corridor in South Salisbury (by the University) up to North Salisbury (near the Delaware state line). However, keep in mind that public transportation options are minimal throughout the city, and some areas are heavily congested with traffic with few or no sidewalks.

Recently, the city has invested in a multi-year downtown project and bike lanes and sidewalks connecting different parts of the city, allowing for more travel options to get around town. There are also many options available for housing, with some catering directly to students and others geared toward families. This is because SU has a two-year residency requirement for most undergraduate students (they must live on campus the first two years), with many students opting to live off campus for their remaining time at SU. The University also maintains a website for off-campus housing, including some of the local options, a roommate matching program, and helpful tips and information:



TA Candidate Application Deadlines

- **Priority Consideration:**
January 15
- **Final Deadline:**
March 1

For More Information

Dr. Stephanie Bernhard
Graduate Director
srbernhard@salisbury.edu



To Apply

REQUIREMENTS	COSTS & RESIDENCY	TA APPLICANTS
<p>All applicants will need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended ■ A statement of purpose ■ Two letters of recommendation. <p><i>The GRE is not required to apply. Additional details for application can be found on our website.</i></p>	<p>There is an application fee of \$65, which is waived for U.S. military and U.S. veteran applicants and can also be waived on a first-come, first-serve basis for applicants for whom payment of the fee represents a significant hardship.</p> <p>If you are applying for in-state tuition or the Good Neighbor Graduate Scholarship, a Residency/Domicile Form must also be submitted.</p> <p>More information about the graduate application process can be found through the Office of Graduate Studies – salisbury.edu/graduatestudies</p>	<p>Those applying for a TA position need to submit application materials by January 15 for first consideration. All TA applications must be submitted by March 1. After a review of the applicant’s materials, potential candidates will be interviewed virtually. Each potential candidate will receive the interview requirements and questions in advance and will conduct a brief teaching demonstration.</p> <p>A background in teaching is not required to be a TA. We are looking for candidates with an interest in teaching and a willingness to learn and train professionally.</p>