

TOP: Teaching Opportunity Program for MFA Students

Objectives: to provide highly qualified MFA students with teaching experience; to increase the attractiveness and affordability of our program to exceptional students

Description: Advanced MFA students will be given the opportunity to teach sections of ENG 1100, 1500 or 2310. We'd like to offer these opportunities to 2-3 students in each MFA cohort.

Requirements:

- 1) at least 12 completed graduate credits, with a GPA of 3.5
- 2) at least one "teaching of writing" course with the grade of A- ("A minus") or above
- 3) completion of the WAC three-day workshop
- 4) the recommendation of the MFA Advisory Committee
- 5) an interview with the MFA Coordinator and with the Director of First-Year English
- 6) [optional, recommended] attendance at two departmental Teaching Circle events

Application: To apply, a student should submit a letter of interest by May 1st to the MFA Coordinator, Dr. John Parras at parrasj@wpunj.edu. The letter should detail how the student meets requirements 1-6 above; summarize any teaching experience (or pedagogy study) the student may have; indicate what classes the student has interest in teaching; and discuss his or her teaching approach. [For instance, the student might discuss two classes he or she has taken that were especially interesting and discuss the pedagogy of those courses. What was it about the structure, content or teaching-style of the course that made it effective? How might the student use such techniques or structures in his or her own teaching?]

Process: Once TOP students are chosen by the MFA Advisory Committee, the MFA Coordinator would work with the Director of First-Year English to secure teaching assignments for the students. The MFA Coordinator would also act as or assign a Teaching Mentor to help the student prepare for his or her teaching assignment, which should be no more than two classes per semester. The mentor will also observe the student in the classroom and provide constructive feedback.

Compensation: as specified by the AFT Union contract[s] and WPU employment regulations.

Nota Bene: All teaching assignments are provisional; while the department will do its best to provide classes to TOP students, such assignments cannot be guaranteed.