

Teaching

All students strengthen their abilities to teach writing in a 3-credit course, taken during their first semester in the program, and a 1-credit practicum, taken during their second semester of the program. Students are also assigned teaching mentors every year to advise and observe students and help them develop their teaching portfolios. All graduate students in English, throughout their careers at KU, serve as the Instructor-of-Record for 2 classes each semester, typically of first-year composition and, later, 200-level introductions to fiction, poetry, drama, or writing. Once doctoral students have passed their exams, they can apply to teach 300-level literature, literary history surveys, rhetoric & composition, or workshop classes in the major. Many of our students are recognized by University-wide teaching awards. Students enter the job market with a range of pedagogical experiences, prepared to make immediate contributions to jobs in a teaching field or careers that require presentations and strong oral communication skills.

Research and Scholarship

In addition to advising by faculty mentors, the Department, in conjunction with the Hall Center for Humanities and Graduate School, offers workshops on preparing papers for conferences; submitting essays or creative work for publication; and representing research to others – for the purposes of grant applications and job applications. Students entering the dissertation stage of the doctoral program are strongly encouraged to apply for internal and external grants, and to begin preparing material for publication before entering the job market. In the spring and summer before their final year, students have access to consultations with our Professionalization & Job Placement Advisor and job seeker resources to begin preparing their dossiers for academic, non-academic, and alt-academic positions. In the fall of their final year, students work with the Advisor, and they participate in a series of workshops designed to polish their application materials, prepare for different types of interviews, and develop job talks and teaching presentations.

Diverse Professional Careers

The English Department, KU Graduate Studies, and Hall Center for the Humanities offer a number of programs and workshops designed to prepare graduate students for diverse professional fields. The Hall Center Applied Humanities Boot Camp provides practical advice, intensive training, hands-on experience, and professional networking opportunities in the public humanities; past students have undertaken internships at the Kansas City Public Library and Lawrence's Watkins History Museum, among other local institutions. The Diverse Academic Careers Panels bring together speakers from around the nation who can advise and inspire our students; recent panelists have included children's book and trade book authors, the program manager at the Museum of African American History and Culture, the executive director of a regional preservation society, and curators of various museums and archives. Additionally, graduate students have opportunities to gain experience in editing and publishing through the student-run journal *LandLocked* (formerly *Beecher's*), and in writing program administration through internships with the First- and Second-Year English program and the KU Writing Center. Recent

graduates have found employment in university administration, museum direction, non-profit grant writing, freelance writing, and publishing.