

**Application for Graduate Teaching Assistantship**  
English Department, Colorado State University

**To the applicant:** Your GTA application requires materials that are somewhat different from your application to your program concentration (programs in the English department include Creative Nonfiction, Creative Writing (Fiction or Poetry), English Education, Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, or TEFL/TESL). While your application to your program focuses primarily on your creative or scholarly interests and potential, your GTA application should focus on illustrating your potential as a teacher of CO150: College Composition. The department Teaching Committee will evaluate your experience, commitment, and potential as a GTA of college-level composition.

An assistantship at Colorado State University is defined as a half-time position requiring a commitment of 20 hours per week. The Department administration has set the basic assignment for meeting the 20-hour requirement as teaching three sections of CO150 (1 section in the fall and 2 sections in the spring), participating in a significant training commitment in the first year of the GTA, and teaching three sections of CO150 (2 sections in the fall and one section in the spring) in the second year of the GTA. Three sections is also the normal course load for the third year of funding for MFA students.

The English Department Graduate Teaching Assistant is required to hold a full-time course status (9 credit hours). GTA responsibilities include but are not limited to: Teaching three CO150 courses throughout the academic year, registering for all GTA required courses (E607A/E684A), attending all required training, workshops, conferences, and colloquia, as well as mentoring and conferencing with students. Please visit <https://composition.colostate.edu/> to learn more about our Composition program, as well as its vision and mission.

**Important:** Submit your program application along with your program application to your online Graduate School application profile. *Current graduate students* applying for a GTAship must submit the completed application to the Graduate Programs Assistant at [Emily.Dailey@colostate.edu](mailto:Emily.Dailey@colostate.edu). The three parts of your GTA application should be in one document and appear in this order:

1. **the Background Experience form** - please limit to two pages.
2. **your Statement of Interest** - discuss your teaching-related training and/or experience to explain how the GTA position will enhance your graduate studies. Please limit to two pages.
3. **and your Statement on Learning & Writing-** a 500-700 word essay answering one of the two topics provided.

\*If you are applying to the *M.F.A. Creative Writing program*, your GTA application along with your program application is due by **January 1<sup>st</sup>**.

\*\*If you are applying to a *M.A. program*, please send your GTA application along with your program application by **January 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Colorado State University conducts background checks on all final candidates.

Your application will consist of three sections:

**I. Background and Experience.** This form asks for identifying information, relevant academic, work, and volunteer experience related to teaching, mentoring, writing, and leadership as well as a list of academic work in composition and writing studies. In section 7, please list any honors and awards that you have received.

**II. Statement of Teaching Interest.** The Statement of Teaching Interest, as opposed to the Statement of Purpose in your program application, focuses on your interest in joining our composition teaching faculty through a GTA position. This is your opportunity to express your interest in composition pedagogy and practice, to discuss your teaching-related training and/or experience (e.g., tutoring, community writing workshops, etc.), to explain how the GTA position will enhance your graduate studies and/or career plans, and to clarify any other information you'd like us to know about your interest in teaching. CO150: College Composition is a required course at CSU, taken by over 4,500 students annually. Please tell us what you hope to bring to and learn from this important teaching position.

**III. Statement on Learning & Writing.** Please provide a short 500–700-word essay focusing on your response to one of the following topics:

- Describe a teacher/mentor who had an impact on you. How might they influence your approach to teaching college composition at CSU?
- Describe a moment when you learned something important about writing. What was the context for your learning? How might that experience influence your approach to teaching college composition at CSU?

Once you have prepared all three parts of your GTA application, you may upload it to your online application account.

**I. Background and Experience**

1. NAME:

DATE:

2. PHONE:

3. CURRENT ADDRESS:

4. INDICATE AREA OF STUDY (If you are applying to the Joint Program in TEFL/TESL, please also contact the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to indicate your interest in a GTA with that department.)

- Creative Nonfiction
- Creative Writing-Fiction
- Creative Writing-Poetry
- English Education
- Literature
- Rhetoric and Composition
- TEFL/TESL
- Joint Program

5. For TEFL/TESL applicants only, indicate preferred area of GTA:

- a) composition
- b) PLACE CSU Academic English Program
- c) no preference

6. RELEVANT ACADEMIC, WORK, AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: List work you've done as a student, employee or volunteer which required teaching, mentorship, leadership, and/or evaluation skills; Please provide names and dates.

Position Description	Place of Employment	Dates of Employment	Supervisor Name and Contact Information

7. ACADEMIC WORK IN COMPOSITION AND WRITING: Please list courses and grades.

Course	Grade	Course	Grade	Course	Grade

7. HONORS AND AWARDS