

RECOMMENDED PATHWAYS FOR THREE-YEAR MFA TEACHING

The MFA student with a teaching assistantship will amass a significant amount of teaching and/or writing lab experience over the three years at Purdue. This experience can prepare the MFA student for a variety of teaching positions (adjunct, limited-term lecturer, continuing lecturer) at institutions of higher education across the country upon graduation. If the student's future record of publication permits, the teaching at Purdue can also serve as important experience for tenure-track positions later in an academic career.

The teaching "trails" below have been designed to represent some of the most common ways that an MFA student may proceed through teaching assignments at Purdue. However, by no means, are all the different variations in teaching assignments represented below. These trails have a few traits in common: 1) 205 teaching (Introduction to Creative Writing:1 section) occurs in the third year; 2) we have tried to insure that as rarely as possible will the MFA student have to attend two mentoring groups in the same semester. Included among these trails are two that first-year fellows (e.g. Knox Fellows) may follow.

It may be possible for an MFA student to teach a second section of 205. The norm, however, will be an assignment of one section of 205.

All of these trails are completely dependent upon the teaching needs of the English Department in a given semester. Therefore, some of the plans outlined in a trail below will not always be possible to follow. In addition, as the Department's teaching policies change and evolve, it will be necessary to update and alter this document.

However, as of now, for teaching assistants there are two teaching options for the first year: either 1) working in the writing lab both semesters or 2) teaching 106 (Freshman Composition) both semesters. The exact teaching assignments for second and third years will be determined on a year-by-year basis with Janeen Redman, our scheduler, in an individual conference with you after you have registered for classes in the spring.

Please note that, in addition to the general 106 classes (first-year composition), there are currently three other types of 106 classes available to TAs: online, international, and learning community.

In the third year, MFA students may apply to become assistant mentors or technical advisors to 106 teachers. Please speak with the Director of Freshman Composition for more details about this possibility.

It is highly recommended that all MFA students attend the annual "What To Teach Next" meeting to access more information in advance of signing up for their year's teaching.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

F = fall semester; S = spring semester

106 = Freshman Composition

108 = Advanced Freshman Composition

205 = Introduction to Creative Writing

420 = Business Writing

Writing lab tutor = .25 credit unless specified otherwise

TRAILS THAT BEGIN WITH A YEAR OF WRITING LAB TUTORING

Edith Wharton Trail

1st year: F writing lab tutor at .5 / S writing lab tutor at .5 (mentoring in fall)

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

3rd year: F writing lab tutor / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Frederick Douglass Trail

1st year: F writing lab tutor at .5 / S writing lab tutor at .5 (mentoring in fall)

2nd year: F 106 / S 108 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 106 in fall; mentoring for 205 in spring)

3rd year: F 205 & writing lab tutor / S writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall)

If teaching two sections of 205:

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Ralph Ellison Trail

1st year: F writing lab tutor at .5 / S writing lab tutor at .5 (mentoring in fall)

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring for 106 in fall and spring)

3rd year: F 106 / S 205 & 108 (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Robert Frost Trail

1st year: F writing lab tutor at .5 / S writing lab tutor at .5 (mentoring in fall)

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring for 106 in fall and spring)

3rd year: F 420 / S 205 & 420 (mentoring for 420 in fall; mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 & 420 / S 205 (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring; mentoring for 420 in fall)

TRAILS THAT BEGIN WITH A YEAR OF 106 TEACHING

Emily Dickinson Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F writing lab tutor & 106 / S writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall; mentoring for 205 in spring)

3rd year: F 205 & writing lab tutor/ S writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall)

If teaching two sections of 205:

3rd year: F 205 & writing lab tutor/ S 205 (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Herman Melville Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F writing lab tutor & 106 / S writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall)

3rd year: F writing lab tutor / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205 in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Zora Neale Hurston Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F writing lab tutor / S 108 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall; mentoring for 205 in spring)

3rd year: F 205 / S 108 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall)

If teaching two sections of 205:

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Mark Twain Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F 420 / S 420 & 108 (mentoring for 420 in fall; mentoring for 205 in spring)

3rd year: F 205 / S 420 & 108 (mentoring for 205 in fall)

If teaching two sections of 205:

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 420 (or 108) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Walt Whitman Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F 420 / S 420 & 108 (mentoring for 420 in fall)

3rd year: F writing lab tutor / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall;
mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205 in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 420 (or 108) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

James Baldwin Trail

1st year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

2nd year: F 420 / S 420 & 108 (mentoring for 420 in fall; mentoring for 205 in spring)

3rd year: F 205 & writing lab tutor / S writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall;
mentoring for 205 in fall)

If teaching two sections of 205:

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 420 (or 108) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

TRAILS THAT BEGIN WITH A YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP

Maxine Hong Kingston Trail

1st year: fellowship

2nd year: F writing lab tutor at .5 / S writing lab tutor at .5 (mentoring in fall)

3rd year: F writing lab tutor / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall & spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205 in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Louise Erdrich Trail

1st year: fellowship

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

3rd year: F writing lab tutor / S 205 & writing lab tutor (mentoring for writing lab in fall; mentoring for 205 in fall & spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 108 (or 106) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

William Carlos Williams Trail

1st year: fellowship

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

3rd year: F 108 / S 205 & 108 (or 106) (mentoring for 205 in fall & spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 108 (or 106) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Langston Hughes Trail

1st year: fellowship

2nd year: F 106 / S 106 (mentoring group in fall and spring)

3rd year: F 420 / S 205 & 420 (mentoring for 420 in fall; mentoring for 205 in fall & spring)

If teaching two sections of 205:

2nd year: same as above but with mentoring for 205, as well as for 106, in spring

3rd year: F 205 / S 205 & 108 (or 106) (mentoring for 205 in fall and spring)

Statistical Possibilities for MFA Teaching over the Three Years at Purdue

Below is a tabulation of as many teaching combinations as possible. While the recommended “trails” above seem the most practical paths to follow, we want each MFA student to be aware of other combinations.

There are two possible teaching combinations for MFAers in the first year. In the second and third year, there are twenty. **All of these, as mentioned above, are completely dependent on the English Department’s teaching needs in a given semester, i.e. not all the possibilities outlined below will actually be practicable.**

One bit of teaching trail trivia: statistically speaking, from the numbers below, there are actually 800 different possible teaching schedules over a three-year period for any MFA student with a teaching assistantship. However, the Department of English recommends the trails outlined above.

<u>Possibility</u>	<u>First Semester</u>	<u>Second Semester</u>
#1	106	106
#2	Writing Lab Tutor at .5	Writing Lab Tutor at .5
	<u>Third Semester</u>	<u>Fourth Semester</u>
#1	106	106
#2	106	205 / 108
#3	205/108	106
#4	106	Writing Lab Tutor / 205
#5	Writing Lab Tutor / 205	106
#6	108	205 /108
#7	205 / 108	108
#8	Writing Lab Tutor	Writing Lab Tutor / 106
#9	Writing Lab Tutor / 106	Writing Lab Tutor

#10	Writing Lab Tutor	Writing Lab Tutor / 205
#11	Writing Lab Tutor / 205	Writing Lab Tutor
#12	420	420 / 205
#13	420 / 205	420
#14	420	420 / Writing Lab Tutor
#15	420 / Writing Lab Tutor	420
#16	420	420 / 106
#17	420 / 106	420
#18	420	205 / 108
#19	420 / 108	420
#20	420	420 / 108

Fifth Semester

Sixth Semester

#1	106	106
#2	106	205 / 108
#3	205/108	106
#4	106	Writing Lab Tutor / 205
#5	Writing Lab Tutor / 205	106
#6	108	205 /108
#7	205 / 108	108
#8	Writing Lab Tutor	Writing Lab Tutor / 106
#9	Writing Lab Tutor / 106	Writing Lab Tutor
#10	Writing Lab Tutor	Writing Lab Tutor / 205

#11	Writing Lab Tutor / 205	Writing Lab Tutor
#12	420	420 / 205
#13	420 / 205	420
#14	420	420 / Writing Lab Tutor
#15	420 / Writing Lab Tutor	420
#16	420	420 / 106
#17	420 / 106	420
#18	420	205 / 108
#19	420 / 108	420
#20	420	420 / 108

This document was created on January 2nd, 2019, and should be periodically updated as needed.