

**Graduate committee members:** Joseph Turner (chair F22), Frank Kelderman (chair F23), Andrea Olinger, Bronwyn Williams, Ian Stansel, Deborah Lutz

**Regular activities:** The Graduate Committee had its usual slate of meetings and responsibilities this year: individual meetings (progress interviews) with all second-year PhD students, discussions of program guideline revisions, and MA and PhD admissions meetings. Most meetings were conducted virtually.

Additionally, in their role as DGS, Joe and Frank organized (with Lisa Cox's help) and led the following events:

- Joe: Fall 2022 orientation for incoming graduate students
- Frank: Spring 2023 digital visitation day for all accepted PhD students (see more in admissions below), as well as 7 in-person campus visits by prospective MA and PhD students.

**Graduate Program Developments:**

Program Assistant Lisa Cox continues to provide exemplary support to the program. Joe stepped (back) in as interim DGS as 7.1.22 during Frank's Fall 2022 sabbatical. Many thanks to Joe for his service.

Weekly Email Digest

During the Spring, Frank sent out weekly emails to the English Graduate Student listserv, collating news, event announcements, and deadline reminders for MA and PhD students in the program.

Events and Workshops

The graduate program again co-sponsored the Graduate Student Luncheon at the LCLC, with organizational assistance from Lisa.

**Admission Details:**

Due to issues beyond the department's control, a lot of the applicants' dossiers were incomplete or slow to come through the application portal. Thanks to Lisa's excellent coordination and attentiveness, we were able to finalize applications with minimal delay.

**PhD**

- At the PhD level the graduate program met its recruitment goals this year.
- There were 18 applications, and we were able to accept 9 PhD students, including 4 University Fellows.
- One international PhD student who deferred admission last year was able to also join in Fall 2023.
- In addition, one second-year non-GTA PhD student was accepted to GTA status as of Fall 2023.
- One GTA line was left unfilled and was returned to the College of A&S.

## MA

- At the MA level, the graduate program came close to meeting its recruitment goals this year.
- There were 23 applications for the M.A. with a GTA position.
- We were able to recruit 8 Master GTA students.
- Because MA recruitment was lower in 2021-222, we still returned 7 MA lines to the College of A&S this year.
- We also accepted 5 part-time (non-GTA) MA students for Fall 2023. There were also 5 part-time MA students who started in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023.

### Incoming Cohorts

**PhD:** We accepted 9 incoming GTA students, including 4 University Fellows. In addition, one student started the PhD program in Fall 2023 who was accepted last year.

**MA:** We have 8 incoming GTA students + 5 non-GTA MA students joining the program in Fall 2023.

### Applicant Pools and Recruiting

The application pool for PhD students is stable; the MA application pool is up from last year.

PhD: We received 18 PhD applications, which is level with 18 applications last year, and up from 13 the year before.

MA: We received 21 applications for the MA with a GTA position, which is significantly up from 12 last year and 16 the year before). Including non-GTA students, we received 24 applications.

### Recruiting

Recruitment remains a priority, with a real need to boost recruitment for the MA program. The graduate committee has developed new recruitment materials, and Frank, Lisa, and Joe have worked on improving the “Admissions” webpages for the MA and PhD programs.

### PhD Visitation Day

We held a virtual recruitment event again this year due to the pandemic. It went smoothly thanks to the coordination of Lisa Cox. Students seemed fine with the digital format. We successfully recruited 5 of the 8 students invited to the visitation day.

### **Total enrollment number in graduate programs (as of Fall 2023)**

- PhD program: 28
- MA program: 25

## Graduation and Placement:

PhD: We graduated 6 PhD students in 2023. This year we have a 100% placement rating in full-time employment (including one Postdoc), a 100% placement rating in academic positions, but only a 20% placement rating in tenure-track jobs.

Two students defended in the Summer of Year 4, one student in the Spring of Year 5, and one student in the Summer of Year 5.

<b>Names</b>	<b>Position in Fall 2023</b>
Adepoju, Olalekan	Lecturer, College of Staten Island
Cox, Aubrie	Assistant Director of the Writing Center + Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Day, Cooper	Assistant Professor (TT), Francis Marion University
Kilbourne, Susannah	Teacher & Instruction Coordinator, LaFayette High School, Lexington KY
Lee, Tobias	Instructor, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Mainaly, Shiva	Postdoctoral Fellow, North Dakota State University

MA: The MA program graduated 9 students in Spring 2023.

<b>Names</b>	<b>Position in Fall 2023</b>
Kylee Auten	Part-time lecturer, UofL
Edward Donovan	Jefferson Community and Technical College
Curtis Ehrich	
Eli Megibben	Transfer Academic Advisor, Bellarmine University
Brice Montgomery	Strategist, Anna Montgomery Co. Louisville
Derrick Neese	Part-time lecturer, UofL
Benjamin Poe	Part-time lecturer, UofL
Yuan Zhao	PhD Student, Rhetoric & Composition, UofL

## Awards & Recognition

- Tobias Lee, Dean's Citation (Doctoral) + nominee, Houchens Dissertation Award
- Christina Davidson, Grand Prize in the inaugural Cardinals Create Showcase
- Lauren Fusilier, Excellence in Teaching Award, College of A&S
- Olalekan Adepoju, Graduate Student Ambassador
- Olalekan Adepoju, Presidential Diversity Supplement Award
- Kylee Auten, Spring 2023 Publishing Academy graduate
- Michael Benjamin, Spring 2023 Publishing Academy graduate
- Christina Davidson, Spring 2023 Publishing Academy graduate

## **Staff Award**

- Lisa Cox, Outstanding Staff Performance Award, College of A&S

Goals for next AY:

1. Continue to improve recruitment strategies and materials for PhD and MA programs
2. Map out workflow for DGS and GPA, to streamline student enrollment processes and GTA onboarding
3. Review PhD and MA curriculum