

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Curriculum and Models of Masters-Level Graduate Instructor Training in FYC

Kailyn Shartel Hall and Bradley Dilger

Department of English, Purdue University

Key Information

Please take time to review this information carefully. This is a research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary which means that you may choose not to participate at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may ask questions to the researchers about the study whenever you would like. If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign this form, be sure you understand what you will do and any possible risks or benefits.

This exploratory study will examine the existing methods used to train graduate student instructors to teach first-year composition at institutions that offer, at most, a master's degree in English studies, Writing studies, or an equivalent or adjacent field. Most work on graduate instructor training in first-year composition has historically focused on preparation for PhD work or sited in PhD programs, but the master's-granting institution is an understudied context with its own distinct needs. In conducting this study, we hope to better understand the ways that graduate instructor training functions within this specific context to encourage further study and support for these programs as they evolve to meet the needs of their students.

The study is estimated to run for up to four years: survey and interviews will take place in 2023 with analysis to follow. More detailed information about the study can be found below.

What is the purpose of this study?

This study is largely exploratory in nature, using publicly available information and institutional context alongside curricular information to better understand the current methods for training graduate student instructors in master's programs. We hope that this work will serve as a foundation for future work on both graduate instructor training and the nature of master's-level graduate programs in English studies and related fields.

You are being asked to participate because you were identified through Phase One of this study, which is an analysis of publicly available information (government sources and your department's website) as potentially meeting the following criteria.

Specifically, we are looking for faculty or instructional staff members in who:

- are employed in a program or department that grants an English studies or adjacent Master's degree;

- have a role in supervising some or all aspects of graduate student instructor training at their college or university;
- have access to procedural documents and information relevant to program context (i.e., training manuals, syllabi, orientation materials, curriculum);
- hold the role writing program administrator (or equivalent administrative role);
- administer/instruct practicum-type courses or supervises orientation sessions for new graduate student instructors.

We would like to enroll up to 75 people in Phase Two (Survey) of this study.

What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

If you choose to participate in Phase Two, the survey, you will complete a two-part survey in Qualtrics. The first part is a questionnaire about your program and training methods that will take approximately 15 minutes. The second part is collection of documents related to your training program that will take approximately 15 minutes.

Phase Two survey participants will also have the option to indicate interest in participating in a Phase Three Interview that would expand on responses from the Phase Two survey and document collection.

How long will I be in the study?

The Phase Two survey should take about 30 minutes total across both parts. The questionnaire will take about 15 minutes, and the document collection will take about 15 minutes.

What are the sites where this study will take place?

The Phase Two survey will be distributed digitally through the Qualtrics software.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

Risks for this study are minimal; however, there are risks present, including social and psychological risks to participants. Discussing work-related topics may cause feelings of stress or anxiety in participants. During Phase Two survey completion, participants may end the survey at any point and their responses will not be recorded. This will be ensured through Qualtrics settings: incomplete surveys will not be recorded as part of the final data. Additionally, Phase Two participants may contact the researchers at any time to have their data removed from the study.

Breach of confidentiality is always a risk with data, but we will take precautions to minimize this risk, as described in the confidentiality section, below.

Are there any potential benefits?

There are potential benefits to participating in this study. You will reflect on the curriculum, structure, and material conditions of their graduate instructor training programs. You may find this reflection useful for future changes to those training programs.

This study addresses a gap in research on graduate instructor training, and we hope to draw more attention within our field to the ways that training programs can differ based on institutional context. We hope that by identifying how programs are training graduate students in Master's programs, we can then better develop curricula and training that meet their growing diverse professional needs both in and outside higher education.

Our hope is that through ensuing conversations and future research stemming from this work, our field can help develop a broader network of resources and support for those training graduate students to teach first-year composition.

Are there costs to me for participation?

There are no anticipated costs to participate in this research.

This section provides more information about the study

Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?

Yes. We will use a combination of identification numbers, pseudonyms, and careful data handling practices to maximize confidentiality.

Survey data will be collected in Qualtrics software. Qualtrics reports will be downloaded and stored on secure servers provided by Purdue. Data will only be accessible to the researchers named on this form.

When publishing, if referring to your survey responses or shared documents individually, we will use pseudonyms and/or identification numbers instead of your name and your institution name so that it will be extremely unlikely for readers to know you participated in the study.

The project's research records may be reviewed by departments at Purdue University responsible for regulatory and research oversight.

What are my rights if I take part in this study?

You do not have to participate in this research project. If you agree to participate, you may withdraw your participation at any time without penalty. If you choose to withdraw, you can notify the researchers at any time and your data will no longer be included in the study. In that case, your survey responses and any documents you shared will be discarded.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the study?

If you have questions, comments or concerns about this research project, you can talk to one of the researchers. Please contact Kailyn Shartel Hall at hall554@purdue.edu, or Bradley Dilger at 309-259-0328 or dilger@purdue.edu.

To report anonymously via Purdue's Hotline see www.purdue.edu/hotline. If you have questions about your rights while taking part in the study or have concerns about the treatment of research participants, please call the Human Research Protection Program at (765) 494-5942, email (irb@purdue.edu) or write to:

Human Research Protection Program - Purdue University
Ernest C. Young Hall, Room 1032
155 S. Grant St.
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2114

Documentation of Informed Consent

I have had the opportunity to read this consent form and have the research study explained. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the research study, and my questions have been answered. I am prepared to participate in the research study described above. Feel free to print or save a copy for your records.

I AGREE TO PARTICIPATE

I DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE