

Department of English: Director of Creative Writing

The University of South Alabama Department of English invites applications for a full-time (nine-month), tenure-track Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor of Creative Writing, starting August 15, 2025. The successful candidate will also direct the Stokes Center for Creative Writing and serve as Director of Creative Writing

Application and Search Process:

Required: PhD in English or MFA in Creative Writing or a closely related field with expertise in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, screen/playwriting, and/or some combination of the above; significant publication record; demonstrated leadership ability; demonstrated commitment to facilitating student readings and publications.

Preferable: Experience with departmental administration (such as service as the coordinator or director of a creative writing program or concentration); experience with marketing and recruitment as well as creative writing assessment; experience serving as the faculty advisor to a student literary magazine.

To apply: email vita, cover letter, and names of three references to Dr. Becky McLaughlin, Chair, Search Committee, c/o Ms. Mary Ricciardi (mricciardi@southalabama.edu).

Position:

The successful candidate will teach primarily creative writing courses in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and/or screen/playwriting with occasional courses in composition; actively publish in appropriate fields; direct the Stokes Center for Creative Writing; and serve as Director of Creative Writing.

Administrative responsibilities include arranging student readings and facilitating student publications; recruiting students for the English Department's graduate and undergraduate creative writing concentrations; inviting and hosting visits by distinguished writers (under the auspices of the Stokes Center for Creative Writing); overseeing the assessment of creative writing (as part of the university's annual assessment of learning outcomes); and exploring opportunities for community outreach. The Director of Creative Writing will work closely with the department chair, the graduate coordinator, and the chair of the undergraduate committee to improve and expand the department's already successful creative writing concentrations. (For more information on these concentrations, see department website links for "Undergraduate Program" and "Graduate Program.")

The Department, University, and Community:

The English Department at the University of South Alabama has long been identified with outstanding creative writing faculty members and alumni. Past or present faculty members have received many honors, including an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship, the National Book Award, the Harper Lee Award, and the Alabama Poet Laureateship. Numerous former students have published novels, poetry collections, and works of creative nonfiction. The department is exceptionally collegial, highly productive in research and creative work, and committed to quality undergraduate and graduate education.

The University of South Alabama is a public research university with more than 14,000 students.

The historic Mobile Bay area is home to many successful creative writers and boasts a lively arts scene in which the USA creative writing faculty members have long figured prominently.

The Stokes Center for Creative Writing:

The Stokes Center enhances the English Department's offerings in creative writing by sponsoring readings, lectures, forums, workshops, community projects, and other events that are free and open to the public. It also supports creative writing students through scholarships and awards in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. The Stokes Center is committed to fostering a vibrant writers' community in southern Alabama that showcases local and national authors and provides a meeting place for writers from around the world.

Visiting Writers Series:

The University of South Alabama has hosted many distinguished authors and scholars over the years, including Margaret Atwood, Charles Bernstein, Percival Everett, Roxanne Gay, Yuri Herrera, Major Jackson, Elizabeth Kolbert, Hank Lazar, Marjorie Perloff, Marge Piercy, Danez Smith, W. D. Snodgrass, and Edward O. Wilson. Now part of the Stokes Center, the Visiting Writers Series brings emerging and established authors to campus for readings and craft talks throughout the year. All events are free and open to the public.

If you have any questions about the search or the process, please contact Search Chair, Dr. Becky McLaughlin, at bmclaugh@southalabama.edu.

Review of applications will begin January 6, 2025, and continue until the position is filled.

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