

## Anthony Gross, M.A. B.A. Literature, 2014

*By Max Chambers*

**Online Composition Instructor,  
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*“Your English degree gives you more than monetary value – it can set you up to be a change agent in so many other ways depending on how you wield it.”*

Anthony Gross, Jr. graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in Literature, minoring in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). He earned a [master’s degree in Rhetoric and Composition](#) from University of Louisville in 2017. Gross is currently an Online Composition Instructor at the University of Louisville, where he teaches *Intro to College Composition* and *Intermediate College Composition*. He is also a Senior Online Advisor for [The Learning House, Inc.](#), which partners with students and universities to ensure students’ academic success.

Gross began freshman year at WKU as a Graphic Design major. However, his English courses showed him what his true passions were. “After taking Intro to Literature, I knew I wanted to engage more with literary analysis and writing in hopes of entering a career in academia,” said Gross. He knew he wanted to work in research or academic advising, and a graduate degree would help him find the right job.

Gross’ research interests and career goals were shaped by his courses at WKU. He was particularly influenced by *Advanced Composition* with Dr. Judith Szerdahelyi, *Gay and Lesbian Literature* with Dr. Nikolai Endres, and *Writing in the Disciplines* with Catherine Ware. “Working with Dr. Szerdahelyi made me more aware of my writing process, and I knew I wanted to work with others to help them be more mindful of their own writing processes. Dr. Endres’ class was the first time I really took advantage of exploring LGBT studies, which helped guide my research interests in grad school. And I constantly reflect on my experience as a first-year student in Professor Ware’s course as a reference point for my own teaching in Intro and Intermediate College Writing.”

After graduating from WKU in 2014, Gross worked as a Residential Advisor at WKU's [The Gatton Academy](#) while preparing graduate school applications. While pursuing his MA, he worked for the University of Louisville as a Writing Consultant and Composition Instructor. Gross has continued as a Part-Time Lecturer for the university since graduating in 2017. He also became a Senior Online Advisor at The Learning House, Inc. in 2017.

At The Learning House, Inc., Gross works in the retention department, where he exercises his passion for advising students. "I work with online students in various academic programs for a specific partner school, and I help them navigate the university's processes and systems, in addition to offering them advice on how to be successful as college students," said Gross. He feels that his English degree was vital in honing the analytical and communication skills he uses every day. "Without coursework in literature, rhetoric, and composition, I don't think I would do nearly as well at catching important details in my daily work," said Gross. He hopes to work in-person with students in the future, since both of his current jobs are based online.

In his free time, Gross enjoys playing with his three-legged Dachsund/Norfolk Terrier mix named Wendell. He also enjoys spending time outdoors, "whether it's hiking, walking my dog, or sitting in a beer garden." When he has time to read, Gross gravitates to memoirs, although his favorite book is *Beloved* by Toni Morrison.

Gross encourages English students to value the wide variety of career options that their degree provides. "Not all employers will recognize the intellectual value of our degree – labeling our abilities as "soft skills" – but there are definitely big thinkers and innovators out there who will value the unique perspective you bring to the world and your work," said Gross. He also encourages students to explore their interests outside the English department. "I encourage you to look for the intersections between your personal interests and your background in English," said Gross. "You'll likely surprise yourself with the unique point of view you can bring to the table by bringing the things you love to think about/do together."

