

# Grace Therrell

**Class of 2017**

## **Double Major in Literature and English for Secondary Teachers**

By: Tyler Keeton



“There are two kinds of teachers: the kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just gives you a little prod behind and you jump to the skies.”  
— Robert Frost

Grace Therrell is on track to graduate in the spring semester of 2017. Therrell likes to think of herself as the “quintessential English major.” Through lots of laughs, she says, “I’ve got the hipster glasses thing going on, I sometimes walk with a pen behind my ear, and, of course, I’ve got a full bookshelf and an eternally-long reading list.” Therrell is also majoring in Education. She explains, “I love school supplies, I have about a million teacher bags, and I constantly think about fun activities that will connect my students to literature.” She is a double major in [Literature](#) and [English for Secondary Teachers](#). She believes the two combined are “the best of both worlds.”

As a future English educator, Therrell wanted to get involved in something that would help develop skills in both majors. She was chosen to be a teaching assistant for ENG 299, taught by Dr. [Elizabeth Alsop](#). As a TA, Therrell saw the college English classroom from the other side, while still practicing skills that

benefited her as a student. Therrell met with Dr. Alsop every week to discuss classroom performance and the nuances and technicalities of professor-dom. “Perhaps even more beneficial for me,” she says, “was the classroom time.” She not only observed Dr. Alsop, but also interacted with the students and practiced teaching, creating, collaborating, and leading. Therrell taught two class periods, created a rubric for a paper workshop, and got to lead the students in “Literature speed-dating.” She explains, “The professional skills I gained during this experience are absolutely irreplaceable.”

After graduation, Therrell’s plan is to “go somewhere and teach some high school kids some English.” She also plans to eventually venture into graduate work, but is happy to go where life takes her. She says, “Wherever I end up, though, will be with a bunch of teacher bags and a bunch of books. And, of course, the hipster glasses.”