

Dr. Chet Breaux **M.A. English, 2011**

By Melissa J. Rush & Madelyn Chambers

Writing Center Director, Athens State University

"I know people with degrees in English that work in a diverse range of fields. An undergraduate degree gets your foot in the door. You get to choose that door."



Dr. Chet Breaux graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2011 with a master's degree in English. He earned his [PhD in Rhetoric and Composition](#) from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2015. Breaux is currently the Writing Center Director at [Athens State University](#), a two-year upper-level university which offers courses for transferring undergraduate juniors and seniors.

Breaux chose to attend WKU after visiting Cherry Hall and overhearing a literature discussion led by Dr. David LeNoir. "I heard roaring laughter coming out of a classroom and found Dr. LeNoir sitting in a circle with his students," said Breaux. "They were discussing writing. That experience showed me that teaching writing doesn't have to be painful. It can be fun and engaging. That's something that I bring to all my courses."

While Breaux was a student at WKU, Dr. Wes Berry helped him build his confidence as a writer and as a first-generation college student. Dr. Lloyd Davies' literature classes also challenged Breaux to continually improve his writing. "I scored a B on one of those papers (not a B+, just a B), and it's one of my greatest achievements as a writer," said Breaux. "I still hear his voice in my head when I'm tempted to start a sentence with a gerund."

While pursuing his PhD, Breaux worked as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Breaux became the Director of the Digital Writing Studio for Florida State University in 2015, then moved to his current position at Athens State University in 2018.

As Writing Center Director, Breaux serves as administrative support for his Writing Center tutors. "I make the schedule, handle software/technology problems, complete payroll, order supplies, schedule maintenance, plan events, and sit in on a large number of meetings related to student support," said Breaux. "The biggest part of my job is working as an advocate for writing and literacy on campus." Breaux also teaches advanced composition courses for the university, and he is working to launch a certificate in Professional Writing program that will include training in grant writing, media writing, and technical writing.

In his free time, Breaux is an avid video game player. "I recently took apart and fixed up an old Xbox from 2001," said Breaux. "Like most hobbyists, I'm interested in the history and evolution of the form." Breaux also enjoys listening to music and says he is "rarely seen on my campus without a pair of headphones on."

Since English is such a flexible degree, Breaux advises current English students to keep their career options open. "Keep in mind there are many positions in which you can use those passions for the greater good," said Breaux. "Explore your career options early and often. Talk to your professors about your plans and ask them for advice." For students who wish to teach in higher education, he recommends reading *The Professor is In* by Karen Kelsky and James Berlin's "[Rhetoric and Ideology in the Rhetoric Class](#)".

