MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Program Director
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Program Description
The Master of Arts program in English offers courses in:

- literature research,
- history and theory,
- genre and figure studies;
- creative and professional writing;
- linguistics and composition theory;
- film; and
- the teaching of writing and literature.

Faculty members strive to offer students an understanding of the traditions of literary study and familiarity with the latest multicultural and interdisciplinary approaches. The M.A. in English prepares graduates to pursue opportunities in teaching, professional writing, and further graduate study.

Working closely with their advisors, students design individual programs to meet their interests and goals. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of approaches to the study of literature, language, and writing and to develop their abilities as readers, critics, writers, and teachers. The program requires 30 semester hours of coursework in English, during which students complete and present a thesis or portfolio of their representative work to a faculty review committee.

Graduate Certificates
Graduate certificates in professional and technical writing, teaching of writing, literature for children and young adults, and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) are available through the English Department. Please see the appropriate information in the Graduate Certificates section of this catalog.

Advising
All students should have their schedules approved by a graduate faculty advisor every semester. After initial enrollment in the program, the student and his or her advisor will establish a coursework plan including alternate course selections.

Students who anticipate graduate study beyond the M.A. are strongly advised to acquire basic reading competence in at least one foreign language.

Admission Requirements
Students must have an undergraduate English major or other preparation judged satisfactory by the department and an grade point average in undergraduate study of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants for the M.A. are required to submit a brief (750-1000 words) statement of purpose outlining their reasons for wishing to obtain the M.A. in English and how that degree fits into their professional goals. Applicants are also required to submit a short sample of academic prose, preferably an undergraduate class paper.

Graduate Faculty
Corey E. Andrews, Ph.D., Professor
Eighteenth-century literature; Scottish Studies; Robert Burns; poetry; bibliography; working-class studies

Diana Awad-Scrocco, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Professional and technical writing; medical rhetoric and communication; composition pedagogy; writing center theory and practice

Rebecca A. Barnhouse, Ph.D., Professor
Medieval literature; fiction writing; young adult literature

Christopher Barzak, M.F.A., Professor
Fiction writing; fiction; contemporary British and American literature

Laura L. Beadling, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Gender, race and sexuality in American film; Native American film and culture; comics studies; television studies; rhetoric and composition

Jennifer Behney, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Grammatical gender acquisition; facilitation and inhibition in spoken word recognition; eye-tracking and gender agreement marking; L2 syntactic priming; working memory, inhibition, and interaction; form-meaning connections in lexical access; and dialect/minority language preservation

Terry Benton, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Children’s literature

Philip Sean Brady, Ph.D., Professor
Modern Irish literature; creative writing; modern world literature

Jeffrey M. Buchanan, Ph.D., Chair, Professor
English education; composition; pedagogy

Suzanne Diamond, Ph.D., Professor
Cinematic literary adaptations; 19th century British literature and culture; "true crime" media; writing pedagogy

Timothy Francisco, Ph.D., Professor
Shakespeare and early modern studies; working-class and inequity studies; humanities education and public policy; media and narrative studies

Julia M. Gergits, Ph.D., Professor
Victorian literature; women’s studies; technical writing; literature and the Other

Jay L. Gordon, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Rhetoric; technical and professional communication; document design; pedagogy of writing

Stacy Graber, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Popular culture; pedagogy; critical theory; semiotics

Lucas D. Hardy, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Early American literature and culture; early modern philosophy; history of medicine

Nicole Pettitt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Immigrant/refugee education; minority language research ethics

Steven Reese, Ph.D., Professor
Twentieth-century British literature; creative writing

Dolores V. Sisco, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
African diaspora studies; postcolonial studies; popular culture

Linda J. Strom, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Degree Requirements
All master’s degree students must complete 30 semester hours in English courses at the graduate level; exceptions must have prior approval of the English Department chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. All M.A. students must take at least one course in each of two areas:
• one theory or methods course (graduate assistants must take ENGL 6907 Teaching of Writing; ENGL 6989 Teaching Practicum may not fulfill this requirement);
• one language, discourse, or writing course.

Students may select the literature-based M.A. or the M.A. track in Professional Writing and Editing to complete their degree.

M.A. in English
To complete this option, students must complete 30 semester hours in English courses at the graduate level; exceptions must have prior approval of the Department Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies. In addition to theory, language, discourse, or writing courses required above, students selecting this option must take at least two literature courses from a list of approved courses, as well as one of these courses:

• ENGL 6900 Methods of Literary Research, or
• ENGL 6901 Methods of Composition Research.

To complete their degree requirements, students in this option may either submit a thesis or a graduate portfolio.

Students in this option are encouraged, but not required, to create a focus area with their remaining courses. Possible focus areas include:

• literature,
• linguistics,
• professional writing and editing,
• composition and rhetoric,
• teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL), and
• literature for children and young adults.

Students who plan on pursuing a Ph.D. in literary studies are strongly encouraged to complete a broad selection of courses in British and American literature.

M.A. in English, Professional and Technical Writing Track
To complete this option, students must complete 30 semester hours of credit in the following courses. Two of these courses must also satisfy the theory, language, discourse, or writing courses required above.

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<td>ENGL 6949</td>
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Select three of the following:

| ENGL 6901 | Methods of Composition Research             | 3    |
| ENGL 6907 | Teaching of Writing                        |      |
| ENGL 6950 | Sociolinguistics                            |      |
| ENGL 6955 | Advanced Linguistics                        |      |
| ENGL 6958 | English Grammar                             |      |
| ENGL 6993 | Discourse Theory                            |      |
| ENGL 6998 | Professional Writing Internship             | 3    |
| or ENGL 6999 | Thesis                                     | 3    |

Total Semester Hours 30

Thesis and Portfolio Options
All M.A. students must submit a thesis or portfolio. Handouts on thesis and portfolio guidelines and examples of past theses and portfolios are available from the departmental Director of Graduate Studies.

The thesis option is designed especially for, but is not limited to, students planning to pursue a doctorate. Students choosing this option must select a committee consisting of a thesis director and two additional graduate faculty members. This committee must approve a thesis proposal before the student can register for thesis credit. Students must demonstrate through the thesis a familiarity with appropriate sources and an ability to interpret the material and properly document their research. Students selecting the thesis option may count up to three semester hours of thesis credit (ENGL 6999 Thesis) toward their total of 30 semester hours of coursework.

The portfolio consists of selected work written during graduate coursework or as part of a professional internship. The student will present the portfolio to a faculty review committee no later than the eighth week of the semester in which s/he plans to graduate. Students in the Professional Writing and Editing track may count up to three semester hours of credit earned in their professional internship toward the 30 semester hour requirement.

Learning Outcomes
English graduate students will demonstrate the ability to produce professional-quality research papers that could be used as the basis for conference presentations or professional publications.

English graduate students will demonstrate the use of a variety of interpretive strategies for analyzing multiple kinds of texts, including close reading, contextual analysis, analysis of form and genre, and rhetorical analysis.

English graduate students will demonstrate the use of theories related to the representation of culture, race, class, gender, and sexuality to interpret literary texts.

English graduate students will demonstrate the ability to participate in the professional life of the field as scholars, teachers, editors, and/or writers.

Graduate Courses

ENGL 6900 Methods of Literary Research 3 s.h.
Basic concepts and methods of literary research and analysis.

ENGL 6901 Methods of Composition Research 3 s.h.
Theories and methods of composition research; emphasis on strategies for conducting, analyzing, and writing about classroom and workplace studies.

ENGL 6902 Literary Thought 3 s.h.
May focus on particular theoretical approaches or provide an overview of literary criticism. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6906 Teaching of Literature 3 s.h.
Problems, issues, practices, and research that affect the teaching of literature at various grade levels and in college courses.

ENGL 6907 Teaching of Writing 3 s.h.
Problems, issues, practices, and research that affect the teaching of writing at various grade levels and in college courses.

ENGL 6911 The Medieval World 3 s.h.
Study of selected literary works reflecting medieval thought and culture. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6912 Sixteenth- and 17th-Century British Studies 3 s.h.
Nondramatic literature of the British Renaissance. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6913 Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama 3 s.h.
Varying emphases on the dramatic works of Shakespeare and/or his contemporaries. May be repeated once with a different topic.
ENGL 6914 Restoration and 18th-Century British Studies 3 s.h.
Prose, poetry, and/or drama of the period studied in historical and cultural context and from various critical perspectives. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6915 Early American Studies 3 s.h.
Prose, poetry, and/or drama from the colonial period up to the early 19th century examined in their historical and cultural contexts. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6916 Nineteenth-Century British Studies 3 s.h.
Prose, poetry, and/or drama of the period studied in historical and cultural context and from various critical perspectives. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6917 Nineteenth-Century American Studies 3 s.h.
Examines 19th-century American literature and culture through particular themes, genres, styles, periods, and/or figures. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6918 Studies in Children's Literature 3 s.h.
Contemporary children's literature. Emphasis may be on development, trends, critical standards, cultural context, classroom selection and use. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6919 Studies in Young Adult Literature 3 s.h.
Contemporary young adult literature. Emphasis may be on development, trends, critical standards, cultural context, classroom selection and use. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6920 Twentieth-Century British Studies 3 s.h.
Prose, poetry, and/or drama of the period studied in historical and cultural context and from various critical perspectives. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6922 Twentieth-Century American 3 s.h.
Studies. Examines works in relation to the history and social and cultural developments of the period. Nonliterary texts may be included, such as film, visual arts, and music. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6923 Working Class Literature 3 s.h.
A study of working-class literature, culture, and artistic production, with emphasis on the literary history, the material conditions, and the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation in the works of literature by and about the working class.

ENGL 6927 Historical Survey of Literature for Young People 3 s.h.
Survey of historical developments from the 18th through mid-20th centuries in British and American literature for young people.

ENGL 6935 Studies in Romanticism 3 s.h.
Prose, poetry, and/or drama of the period studied in historical and cultural context and from various critical perspectives. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6943 Technical Communication 3 s.h.
In-depth discussion of audience, format, document design, and corporate structure. Focus on refining skills and providing theoretical support for practical applications.

ENGL 6944 Document Design and Production 3 s.h.
Application of computer software and hardware to design and produce professional/technical documents.

ENGL 6945 Theory of Professional and Technical Communication 3 s.h.
Examines theory and research in professional and technical communication with emphasis on the application of theoretical concepts and empirical findings to practical problems in the field. Introduces students to theories and research methods through reading in current literature and through class research projects.

ENGL 6946 Historical Editing 3 s.h.
Project-based approach to theoretical and practical aspects of editing historical and literary documents for both print and digital contexts. Topics include document selection, transcription, verification, and annotation, as well as the implications for teaching and learning using traditional print and electronic archives and texts.

ENGL 6947 Proposal Writing 3 s.h.
Graduate level introduction to the structural, rhetorical, and linguistic aspects of professional proposals, with a focus on grant proposals. Students examine the role of proposals in serving the needs and interests of organizations and individuals. Requirements include writing one grant proposal for a client and one other type of proposal (e.g., a research project proposal or book prospectus).

ENGL 6948 Healthcare Communication 3 s.h.
Graduate level introduction to how healthcare information is conveyed by healthcare researchers, providers, and writers, to experts and non-experts. Students examine how people find and use medical information in making healthcare decisions. Students consider issues of health literacy, research methods, ethics, public and private clinical communication, patient education, and visual design. Requirements include writing a report on a medical talk, a healthcare-related press release, and a client-based healthcare communication project.

ENGL 6949 Professional and Technical Editing 3 s.h.
A study of the skills needed to make appropriate changes in the content, grammar, mechanics, style, format, and organization of manuscripts for scholarly, trade, journalistic, and other professional publications. The course deals with stages in the publishing process, hard-copy versus online editing, mechanical and substantive editing, and the use of house and press styles.

ENGL 6950 Sociolinguistics 3 s.h.
An investigation of the relationship between language and society. Includes discussion of dialects and standard languages, language planning, linguistic identity, multi- and bilingualism, class, gender, ethnicity, and social interaction.

ENGL 6951 Language Acquisition 3 s.h.
A study of research on the learning of first and second languages. Topics include developmental sequences, learner variables, critical periods and conditions for learning, and the roles of input and interaction. The course is designed for those planning to teach languages.

ENGL 6952 Linguistics of Literacy 3 s.h.
An investigation of the linguistic, social, and cultural dimensions of literacy. The course covers theoretical frameworks of language and literacy, the relationship between speech and writing, cultural notions of literacy, and the acquisition of literacy in first and additional languages.

ENGL 6953 Publications Issues and Management 3 s.h.
Exploration of the issues involved in managing and producing professional publications, including publications in students' own fields. Focus on organizational, editorial, and authorial voice; editorial policies; audience analysis; and the processes by which publications are conceived, designed, and produced.

ENGL 6955 Advanced Linguistics 3 s.h.
In-depth study of selected issues in contemporary linguistic theory.

ENGL 6956 TESOL Methods 3 s.h.
Introduction to teaching English as a second language (ESL), including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Focus will be on using communicative methods with nonnative speakers.

ENGL 6957 TESOL Practicum 3 s.h.
Supervised teaching in an English as a second language (ESL) program. Additionally, weekly seminar attendance is required.

ENGL 6958 English Grammar 3 s.h.
Descriptions and analysis of English grammar structure.
ENGL 6960  Studies in Linguistics  3 s.h.
Examines a specific topic such as stylistics, semantics, sociolinguistics, second language acquisition, TESOL, or computational linguistics. May be repeated twice with a different topic.

ENGL 6963  Perspectives in Multicultural Studies  3 s.h.
An advanced study of primary and secondary texts from the field of multicultural literature and multicultural education. The course will emphasize the formation of social identities, the intersections of race, class, and gender, relationships among dominant and nondominant subjects in U.S. and other global cultures. The course will pay special attention to the theory and application of multiculturalist paradigms to education, professional work, and graduate study. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6965  Studies in Film  3 s.h.
Analysis of motion pictures and their creators; topics may include classic and contemporary styles, genres, and methods of production, as well as film theory and criticism. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6966  Writing of Poetry  3 s.h.
Discussion and application of approaches, techniques, and forms involved in the writing of poetry. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6967  Writing of Prose  3 s.h.
Discussion and application of approaches, techniques, and forms involved in the writing of fiction and/or nonfiction. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6967X  Writing of Prose XR  3 s.h.
Discussion and application of approaches, techniques, and forms involved in the writing of fiction and/or nonfiction. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6968  Studies in Literary Form  3 s.h.
Examines forms such as poetry, the novel, the short story, essay, biography, autobiography, or travel literature. Emphasis may be on definition, development, cultural context, figures, or themes. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6968X  Studies in Literary Form XR  3 s.h.
Examines forms such as poetry, the novel, the short story, essay, biography, autobiography, or travel literature. Emphasis may be on definition, development, cultural context, figures, or themes. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6969  Writing the Youth Novel  3 s.h.
Discussion and application of approaches, techniques, and forms involved in the writing of novels.

ENGL 6974  English Education Workshop  1-3 s.h.
Intensive study and activity in a topic related to teaching English and the language arts. Does not count toward degree credit. Grading is S/U. May be repeated.

ENGL 6975  English Education Seminar  1-3 s.h.
Approaches to teaching English and the language arts. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6976  Studies in English Education  3 s.h.
Theories, issues, and/or criticism in the teaching of English. May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6989  Teaching Practicum  1-3 s.h.
Techniques and strategies for teaching college composition, including course design and classroom practice. Required of and limited to graduate assistants who are teaching in the English Department. First-year graduate assistants must register for three semester hours of Teaching Practicum in two successive semesters for a total of six semester hours. Does not count toward degree credit. Grading is S/U.

ENGL 6990  Special Topics  3 s.h.
May be repeated once.

ENGL 6991  Special Topics MFA  3 s.h.
Special topics in literature and creative writing for students in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in creative writing. May be repeated once.

ENGL 6992  Professional Communication  3 s.h.
Focus on a selected topic in technical writing or professional communication (e.g., proposal writing, science writing, computer documentation, nonfiction prose). May be repeated once with a different topic.

ENGL 6993  Discourse Theory  3 s.h.
Examination and discussion of contemporary theories of discourse analysis, with some attention to the history and development of rhetorical theory.

ENGL 6997  English Internship  1-3 s.h.
Supervised work-and-learning experience in English under the direction of an English Department faculty member and an employee of a participating firm. Ten to 20 hours a week of student time are expected. Enrollment is contingent upon the availability of internships. Students are selected on the basis of personal qualifications, including GPA, courses taken, recommendations, and an interview. Either ENGL 6997 or ENGL 6998 may count toward the degree, not both.

ENGL 6998  Professional Writing Internship  1-3 s.h.
Supervised work-and-learning experience in professional communication under the direction of a University faculty member and an employee of a participating firm. Ten to 20 hours a week of student time are expected. Enrollment is contingent upon the availability of internships. Students are selected on the basis of personal qualifications, including GPA, courses taken, recommendations, and an interview. Either ENGL 6997 or ENGL 6998 may count toward the degree, not both.

ENGL 6999  Thesis  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.

ENGL 6999X  Thesis XR  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.

ENGL 69911  Special Topics MFA  3 s.h.
Special topics in literature and creative writing for students in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in creative writing. May be repeated once.

ENGL 6999  Thesis  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.

ENGL 6999X  Thesis XR  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.

ENGL 6999  Thesis  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.

ENGL 6999X  Thesis XR  1-3 s.h.
Thesis.