

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 01/15/25 4:23 pm

Viewing: **ENGL-MA : English MA**

Last approved: 11/05/20 8:40 am

Last edit: 02/06/26 12:28 pm

Changes proposed by: Shane Seely (seelys)

Catalog Pages Using this Program

[English MA](#)

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Program Code	ENGL-MA	

In Workflow

1. **S004000 Chair**
2. **Curricular Alignment Check**
3. **Academic Affairs Program Preapproval**
4. **SA_S Assoc Dean**
5. **SA_S Dean**
6. **Graduate C&I Committee**
7. **Senate C&I**
8. **Senate C&I Editing**
9. **FacultySenate**
10. Academic Affairs
11. Registrar Programs

Approval Path

1. 03/04/25 5:23 pm
Suellynn Duffey (duffey): Approved for S004000 Chair
2. 03/04/25 5:30 pm
Keeta Holmes (holmeskm): Approved for Curricular Alignment Check
3. 09/05/25 8:41 am
Betsy Sampson (sampsone): Approved for Academic Affairs Program Preapproval

- 4. 09/25/25 9:26 am
Matthew Taylor
(taylormatt):
Approved for SA_S
Assoc Dean
- 5. 10/07/25 3:28 pm
Matthew Taylor
(taylormatt):
Approved for SA_S
Dean
- 6. 12/08/25 11:29 am
Amber Reinhart
(reinhartam):
Approved for
Graduate C&I
Committee
- 7. 02/10/26 8:49 am
Ho Kim (kimho):
Approved for
Senate C&I
- 8. 02/10/26 9:47 am
Betsy Sampson
(sampsone):
Approved for
Senate C&I Editing

History

- 1. Nov 5, 2020 by
Frank Grady (fgrady)

To be completed by Academic Affairs

Title	English MA
Program Type	Degree Program
College/School	College of Arts & Sciences
Department	English
Academic Level	Graduate
CIP Code	23.0101 - 23.0101
Effective CAT	<u>2024-25</u>

Program Requirements and Description as it will appear in the bulletin.

Admission Requirements

To enter the graduate program in English a candidate must satisfy the requirements of both ~~of~~ the Graduate School and the Department of English. A candidate should have a bachelor's degree, with at least 18 hours in English above the freshmen level. ~~level, 12 of which must be in literature.~~ Normally, only students with a grade point average of 3.0 in undergraduate English courses and an overall undergraduate average of 2.75 will be considered. Scores from the Graduate Record Aptitude Exam (GRE) are not required. Letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required for applicants not seeking assistantships. ~~Though the English department welcomes scores from the Graduate Record Aptitude Exam and letters of recommendation, it does not require either of these.~~ (Students applying for Teaching Assistantships, please see below. ~~"Financial Aid and Teaching Assistantships."~~) Applications to the MA in English are considered year-round. However, because spaces in graduate courses are limited, prospective students should submit their applications well before the semester begins. ~~The graduate coordinator of the English Department with the advice of the graduate committee will use the undergraduate record and, and if available, the scores of the GRE general test as the basis for a decision. We welcome letters of recommendation from the applicant's former English instructors and a sample of expository prose. Applications to the MA in English are considered at all times. However, because spaces in graduate courses are limited, it is strongly advised that prospective students submit their applications well before the semester begins in order to gain admission into their appropriate classes.~~

Teaching Assistantships

A number of teaching assistantships are available for qualified applicants. In addition to the undergraduate record, ~~record and the scores on the GRE general test~~, applications should include two letters of recommendation (preferably from former English instructors), a statement of teaching philosophy, and a sample of expository prose. ~~instructors.~~ Applications should be submitted to the graduate coordinator of the English department no later than March 1 ~~15~~ preceding the academic year for which the appointment is desired.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School requirements, students must complete at least 30 hours, 18 hours of which must be in 5000-level courses. Up to 12 hours may be taken in 4000-level courses approved by the department and Graduate School.

Courses for the MA in English are divided into four categories, and students are required to take classes in at least three. Aside from this core requirement, students build their own program through electives. They might opt to focus tightly on one or two areas, or they might design a program that offers them the broadest possible range of English Studies. Alternatively, they can focus on building a program that best aligns with their unique scheduling needs. Here are the categories:

Literature and Textual Analysis

These courses focus on primary texts—particularly works of literature—and the practices of textual analysis; students read common texts together and engage in scholarly, critical, and analytical work. Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

<u>ENGL 5170</u>	<u>Techniques, Methods, and Effects in Fiction Writing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5180</u>	<u>Form and Theory of Poetry</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5250</u>	<u>Studies in Middle English Literature</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5300</u>	<u>Renaissance Literature</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5650</u>	<u>Critical Studies in African Diasporic Texts</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5700</u>	<u>Twentieth-Century American Literature</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5910</u>	<u>Studies In Poetry</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5920</u>	<u>Studies in Fiction</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5930</u>	<u>Studies In Drama</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5935</u>	<u>Studies in Film and Television</u>	<u>3</u>

Cultural Studies

These courses tend to be interdisciplinary in nature and focus on the ways in which culture is constructed, politicized, and related to wider systems of power; critical theories of identity often inform these courses. Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

<u>ENGL 5720</u>	<u>Studies in Social Justice</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5730</u>	<u>Texts and Technology</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5800</u>	<u>Modern Linguistics</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5840</u>	<u>Theories of Writing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5940</u>	<u>Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5020</u>	<u>Topics in Cultural Studies</u>	<u>3</u>

Pedagogy

These courses focus on approaches to teaching in different sub-disciplines of English Studies. They typically center pedagogical methodologies, theories, and applications. Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

<u>ENGL 5810</u>	<u>Teaching Creative Writing</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5110</u>	<u>Graduate Workshop in Fiction</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5001</u>	<u>Methods in English Studies</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>ENGL 5080</u>	<u>Writing for Publication</u>	<u>3</u>

ENGL 5090Special Topics in Writing3

Writing Craft

These courses focus on students' writing as the core course content; students engage in activities like project development, revision processes, and writing workshops. Courses that fulfill this requirement include:

ENGL 5100Graduate Workshop in Poetry3ENGL 5110Graduate Workshop in Fiction3ENGL 5001Methods in English Studies3ENGL 5080Writing for Publication3ENGL 5090Special Topics in Writing3

Other courses may be used to fulfill these requirements with advisor consent.

Exit Portfolio or Thesis Option

At the end of the degree path, students are required to produce an Exit Portfolio of representative work that confirms mastery of program learning outcomes.

Or, MA students have the option of undertaking a thesis or other independent culminating project or experience during their final two semesters in the program, for a maximum of six credit hours. The nature of the project--including topic, timeline, process, and support mechanisms--must be determined in consultation with their advisor before enrolling for these hours. Students cannot enroll for a thesis or independent project without advisor approval.

~~Required of both concentrations, literature and writing studies:~~

~~ENGL 5000: Introduction to Graduate Study in English. Focuses upon bibliography, research methods, and literary criticism. Should be taken at the outset of the program, for graduate (not undergraduate) credit.~~

~~Students who choose a literature track must also take at least one course in each of the following six areas:~~

~~Area 1, British literature before 1660~~

~~Area 2, British literature between 1660 and 1900~~

~~Area 3, Twentieth-century literature (British, American, post-colonial, or in translation)~~

~~Area 4, American literature~~

~~Area 5, Theories of writing, criticism, language, and/or culture~~

~~Area 6, Literature in translation study of a particular literary genre, or a course in another relevant discipline~~

~~Students who choose the writing studies track must take:~~

~~15 hours in literature courses providing broad coverage rather than a narrow focus on a particular genre or historical period (ENGL 5000 constitutes three of these required literature credits)~~

~~15 hours in writing studies courses (including ENGL 5840)~~

~~If students choose the thesis option (6 hours) they will take 12 hours in literature and 12 hours in writing studies:~~

~~Thesis Options~~

~~Students may elect the thesis option, which requires a total of 6 hours of thesis credit. The thesis will engage the student in sustained and self-motivated study through the processes of research, conferring with advisors, drafting and revising text. The thesis must be approved and assigned a grade by a thesis committee. The student will select a~~

major professor who, after consulting with the chair and the graduate coordinator, will select two other members of the committee.

Literature Emphasis: The thesis should demonstrate original thought and substantial research and may be a critical study of literary works or a theoretical exploration of issues related to literature.

Writing Studies Emphasis: The final document will demonstrate significant familiarity with scholarship in Writing Studies through the critical analysis and clear synthesis of published research, observational data (where appropriate) and the student's thoughts/views/reflections/positions. The thesis may be a critical study, theoretical exploration or descriptive assessment of fieldwork drawing on writing, language, rhetorical, socio-cultural or reading theories; literacy; and the history of writing instruction; composition pedagogies; technologies.

If other departments are affected by this proposal, please secure "sign-offs" and indicate for each department the following:

Program Learning

Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

Engage with, respond to, analyze, and use texts and media that exhibit diverse cultural, historical, ethnic, racial, class, and gendered commitments.

Deploy these texts in written and/or multi-media formats in consonance with the full range of scholarship in English Studies.

Engage in rhetorical and active listening in seminars and other classes, conferences, and group projects in order to contribute to community-building and the construction of new knowledge.

Construct purposeful texts that manage shape and form at both the macro- and micro- levels (e.g., manipulations of ideas, thought, organization, and development, and manipulations of language and other surface features) and that are delivered through contextually appropriate media (e.g. written language, sound, visuals, multimodal means).

Learn to differentiate usage from grammar and to identify code switching and code meshing, in order to develop more diverse and inclusive conceptions of language use.

Engage in complex revision processes whose elements and methods they can identify and articulate.

Conduct original and research-based analyses of a variety of primary and secondary sources to deepen their knowledge of the intersectional and fluid nature of such concepts as culture, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexuality, class, authority, and power.

Evaluate the historical dimensions and contemporary implications of texts, language, rhetorics, and literacies.

Demonstrate familiarity with the aesthetic categories of English Studies and articulate the historical role and function of authorship, genre, mode, form, and criticism.

Learning Outcomes

Comparatively engage cultural, historical and theoretical frameworks to nuance their own work.

Share a strong social awareness collaboratively with peers in the program as well as outside of the classroom through their research, conversations, professional endeavors, and further study.

Attachments

[English MA Curriculum Mapping Tool from December 2024.xlsx](#)

This program will be developed with the intention of delivery in the following delivery modes (choose all that apply)

[Face to face](#)

Justification for request:

The current MA degree is based on an outdated model of English studies, and we no longer have the faculty to offer those classes. This new curriculum is designed both to meet the needs of our students and to highlight the strengths of our faculty.

Program Reviewer

Comments

Betsy Sampson (sampsone) (02/06/26 12:28 pm): For HLC reporting purposes, this is an 15% change.

Key: 59