UMSL | Graduate School

Master of Arts (MA)
English

Degree Program

A minimum of 30 credit hours of courses is required. Students should take English 5000, Introduction to Graduate Study in English. Then they may select courses from English literature, American literature, composition, and rhetoric. At the conclusion of the program, students who want to pursue further research on a focused topic may elect English 6000, Thesis.

Emphasis Areas

1. ***Writing Studies***:
    a. 18 credit hours in literature courses
    b. 18 credit hours in writing, composition theory and pedagogy, and language/linguistic courses.
2. ***Literature:*** Students must take at least one course from each of the following areas:
    a. British literature before 1660
    b. British literature between 1660 and 1900
    c. 20th century literature
    d. American literature
    e. Theories of writing, criticism, language and/or culture
    f. Literature in translation, study of a particular literary genre, or a course in another relevant discipline.

Program Website

https://www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/english/Programs/Graduate%20Programs/index.html

Application Requirements

1. Application
    a. http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now
2. Official transcripts from all universities attended
    a. Successful applicants must have at least the equivalent of the B.A. degree before beginning the master's program. At least 18 hours of English courses above the freshman level and at least 12 hours in literature are normally required.
3. Entrance examinations
    a. The Graduate Record Examination General Test (see http://www.gre.org/ttindex.html).
        i. **Optional for regular admission but required for teaching assistantships**; applicants who feel their undergraduate record does not reflect their abilities may submit GRE scores to support their application.
    a. International students are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
4. Grade Point Average
    a. Minimum of 3.25 on 4.0 scale in English courses.
    b. Students whose overall GPA is 2.75 to 2.99 may be admitted under some circumstances.
5. Two Letters of Recommendation (optional for regular admission but required for teaching assistantships)

Application Deadline (domestic students):

Fall semester: July 1 **Spring semester:** December 1 **Summer semester:** May 1

Applications that are not received by the posted date require special attention from the English Graduate Program Director.

Application Deadline (for international applicants)

Fall semester: June 1 **Spring semester:** October 1

Assistantships

Assistantships are currently funded at $ 9,000 per year for two semesters. Educational-fee scholarships are provided for graduate assistantships. Students teach two courses a semester and must maintain full-time status (6 credit hours). To apply for assistantships, submit (1) an application for a teaching assistantship, (2) a writing sample of scholarly or critical prose such as a paper written for a literature class, and (3) GRE general test scores. **The application deadline is January 15th.**

Application Fee

$50 for domestic applicants; $40 for international applicants

Graduate Program Director

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