

# MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

## Program Director

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## Program Description

The Master of Arts program in English offers courses in:

- Literary Themes, Genres and Theories
- Creative Writing
- Professional Writing
- Linguistics, TESOL, and TEFL
- Film Studies
- Teaching of Literature, Language, and Writing

The English M.A. prepares graduates for careers in public, professional and technical writing; teaching positions in the U.S. and abroad; and equips them with the critical thinking and cultural literacy skills needed for success in nonprofit and private-sector careers.

## Graduate Certificates

Graduate certificates in Professional Writing, Teaching of Writing, Teaching of Literature, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) are available through the Department of English & World Languages. Please see the appropriate information in the Graduate Certificates section of this catalog.

## Advising

All students should have their schedules approved by the departmental Director of Graduate Studies every semester.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants to the English M.A. program do not necessarily need to hold an undergraduate degree in English. We invite applications from students coming from many different academic backgrounds. An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred for all applicants (though lower GPAs are not necessarily disqualifying.)

Applicants are required to submit a short statement of purpose (1-2 pages) explaining their academic and/or professional interests and goals for seeking the M.A. in English.

Applicants to the English M.A. are required to submit a sample of academic prose (10-15 pages), preferably an argument-driven, research-based undergraduate paper. Alternatively, for students who have been away from an academic setting for some time, a writing sample of similar length from a professional setting will suffice.

English M.A. applicants seeking consideration for a Graduate Assistantship position must submit 3 letters of recommendation (from academic sources), in addition to the documents described above. Please note that Graduate Assistantships in English are available only to students who are admitted to the English M.A. program.

## 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

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

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

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

**Maria Conti Maravillas**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

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

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

**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

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

## Degree Requirements

All M.A. students must complete 30 semester hours in English (or related) courses at the graduate level; exceptions must have prior approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

All M.A. students must take:

- 2 courses in Writing, Language, and Discourse (Category A)
- 2 courses in Literature, Text, and Visual Culture (Category B)
- 2 courses in Theory, Method, and Teaching (Category C)
- 4 electives from any of the three categories (A, B, C)
- All M.A. students must complete either a master's portfolio or thesis prior to graduation.

Category A: Writing, Language, and Discourse

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ENGL 6944	Document Design and Production	3
ENGL 6945	Grant Writing	3
ENGL 6948	Healthcare Communication	3
ENGL 6949	Professional and Technical Editing	3
ENGL 6950	Sociolinguistics	3
ENGL 6951	Language Acquisition	3
ENGL 6953	Publications Issues and Management	3
ENGL 6955	Advanced Linguistics	3
ENGL 6958	English Grammar	3
ENGL 6966	Writing of Poetry	3
ENGL 6967	Writing of Prose	3
ENGL 6969	Writing the Youth Novel	3
ENGL 6992	Professional Communication	3
ENGL 6998	Professional Writing Internship	1-3
ENGL 6999	Thesis	1-3

## Category B: Literature, Text, and Visual Culture

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ENGL 6911	The Medieval World	3
ENGL 6912	Sixteenth- and 17th-Century British Studies	3
ENGL 6913	Shakespeare and Renaissance Drama	3
ENGL 6914	Restoration and 18th-Century British Studies	3
ENGL 6915	Early American Studies	3
ENGL 6916	Nineteenth-Century British Studies	3
ENGL 6917	Nineteenth-Century American Studies	3
ENGL 6918	Studies in Children's Literature	3
ENGL 6919	Studies in Young Adult Literature	3
ENGL 6920	Twentieth-Century British Studies	3
ENGL 6922	Twentieth-Century American	3
ENGL 6923	Working Class Literature	3
ENGL 6927	Historical Survey of Literature for Young People	3
ENGL 6935	Studies in Romanticism	3
ENGL 6968	Studies in Literary Form	3
ENGL 6963	Perspectives in Multicultural Studies	3
ENGL 6965	Studies in Film	3

## Category C: Theory, Method, and Teaching

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
ENGL 6900	Methods of Literary Research	3
ENGL 6901	Methods of Composition Research	3
ENGL 6902	Literary Thought	3
ENGL 6906	Teaching of Literature	3
ENGL 6907	Teaching of Writing (Required for Teaching Assistants)	3
ENGL 6942	Writing With Data	3
ENGL 6943	Public and Professional Writing	3
ENGL 6952	Linguistics of Literacy	3
ENGL 6956	TESOL Methods (Prerequisite: ENGL 6951 Language Acquisition)	3
ENGL 6957	TESOL Practicum (Prerequisite: ENGL 6956 TESOL Methods)	3
ENGL 6960	Studies in Linguistics	3
ENGL 6989	Teaching Practicum (Open only to Teaching Assistants; Required for Teaching Assistants)	1-3
ENGL 6976	Studies in English Education	3
ENGL 6993	Discourse Theory	3

## Thesis and Portfolio Options

All M.A. students must submit a thesis or portfolio of work completed during their graduate coursework. Handouts on thesis and portfolio guidelines and examples of past theses and portfolios are available from the departmental Director of Graduate Studies.

Students must select a committee consisting of a director and two additional graduate faculty members. This committee must approve a portfolio/thesis proposal. Students must demonstrate through the portfolio/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. Students will present the portfolio to a faculty review committee no later than the eighth week of the semester in which they plan to graduate.

## Learning Outcomes

English graduate students will demonstrate the ability to produce professional-quality research projects that can 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 discipline as scholars, teachers, editors, and 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 6942 Writing With Data 3 s.h.**

This graduate-level class provides an introduction to writing effectively with data in different types of professional and academic documents. Students examine various forms of qualitative and quantitative data, focusing on how to use data rhetorically to advance research-based arguments for lay and specialized audiences. Students collect, write about, and cite qualitative and quantitative data, including methods such as interviews, surveys, focus groups, online community analysis, and quasi and true experiments. Students also learn how professional and academic writers incorporate data-driven arguments into different written genres and represent those arguments using data-visualization tools. No knowledge of statistics is required.

**Prereq.:** Graduate Standing.

**ENGL 6943 Public and Professional Writing 3 s.h.**

Exploration of scholarly and practical approaches for writing for public, professional, and technical audiences. Students examine the use of writing in public and professional organizations, government, nonprofit sectors, safety and health professions, and political and social campaigns. With an emphasis on theories and practices of approaching audience and purpose, students consider rhetorical and ethical demands of writing in public, professional and technical contexts.

**ENGL 6944 Document Design and Production 3 s.h.**

Application of computer software and hardware to design and produce professional/technical documents.

**ENGL 6945 Grant Writing 3 s.h.**

Study of various issues and strategies involved in writing grant proposals to help solve a range of problems and support various causes that improve people's lives and communities. Students learn how grant proposals enable significant research in natural, behavioral, and social sciences; facilitate civic and educational projects; and advance community development and artistic initiatives. Students learn the functions and conventions of grant proposals, the range of research required to write grant proposals, and the rhetorical and practical processes that produce them and lead to approval. The course emphasizes two key stages of writing grant proposals: developing the proposal (including defining needs, reviewing existing projects and literature, and researching sources of funds), and writing the proposal with a particular audience in mind.

**Prereq.:** Graduate Standing.

**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.

**Cross-Listed:** HIST 6946.

**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 6954 Language Assessment 3 s.h.**

This course seeks to develop the language assessment literacy of teachers and TESOL Endorsement candidates. The content of the course emphasizes theoretical and practical study of instruments and procedures for assessing culturally and linguistically diverse students. Candidates will design and use standardized (formal) and instructional (informal) evaluative methods to learn to assess students' linguistic and academic development, and will conduct critical analyses of existing tools for assessment in terms of their reliability, bias, and validity. Candidates will be able to use assessment to distinguish between levels of language proficiency in decisions of educational plan or placement.

**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 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 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.

**Prereq.:** Acceptance in the MFA program.

**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 6996 TESOL/Applied Linguistics Internship 1-3 s.h.**

Supervised work-and-learn experience for students interested in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and/or applied linguistics. Students spend 3-10 hours per week working for an approved field site, in-person or online. Enrollment is contingent upon the availability of internships. Students must be recommended for this experience by program faculty. ENGL 6996 may be repeated once.

**Prereq.:** ENGL 6956, ENGL 6957, program faculty recommendation.

**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.

**Prereq.:** Thesis proposal accepted by departmental committee.