

ENGLISH, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-ENGL

Academic Advising

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The Master of Arts in English at Mason offers students the opportunity to enhance their skills of reading, writing, research and teaching with courses that encompass the wide range of contemporary English studies. Students can work in and across concentrations in literature, professional writing, rhetoric, cultural studies, film, folklore, linguistics, and the teaching of writing and literature. It offers the MA in field-specific concentrations as well as the opportunity to combine a concentration in one field with a certificate from another one. Many students use the MA for professional enhancement, or as an entry into teaching, professional writing, or doctoral study.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). For information specific to the MA in English, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://english.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-ENGL/>) on the departmental website.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Satisfactory Progress

Students have six years to complete the MA. Students writing a thesis must have an approved proposal by the end of their fifth year as an MA candidate in English and may not make significant changes to that proposal during their sixth year. By the end of the first semester of their sixth year, thesis students need to demonstrate that they have completed their research and are well advanced in developing their analysis and argument, generally by submitting to their advisors a completed rough draft of the thesis or evidence that they have completed their fieldwork and analysis. A student may be dropped from the program if, in the judgment of the thesis advisor and graduate director, evidence of satisfactory progress on the thesis has not been provided by the end of the first semester of a student's sixth year.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 30

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Students pursuing this degree must successfully complete 30 credits in one concentration as specified below.

Students in the concentrations of cultural studies, linguistics, literature, and teaching of writing and literature must demonstrate intermediate proficiency in a foreign language in one of the following ways: submitting an undergraduate (or continuing education) transcript that includes courses corresponding to intermediate proficiency; completing a Mason foreign language course numbered 202 or higher; passing a proficiency exam administered by the English department.

Concentration in Cultural Studies (CULT)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGH 500	Research in English Studies	3
ENGH 676	Introduction to Cultural Studies	3
CULT 802	Histories of Cultural Studies	3
Two Courses		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ENGH 551	Introduction to Literary Theory	
ENGH 665	Seminar in Global Culture	
ENGH 670	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	
ENGH 675	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGH 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English ¹	
ENGH 705	Literary Theory and Criticism ¹	
Three to Five Courses of Literature		
Select 9-15 credits from the following:		9-15
ENGH 511	Graduate Literature Survey	
ENGH 513	Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies	
ENGH 526	Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature	
ENGH 590	Topics in Folk Narrative	
ENGH 591	Topics in Folklore Studies	
ENGH 642	Seminar in British Literature	
ENGH 644	Seminar in American Literature	
ENGH 646	Seminar in Advanced Research	
ENGH 661	Seminar in African-American Literature	
ENGH 665	Seminar in Global Culture	
ENGH 670	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	
ENGH 681	Advanced Topics in Folklore Studies	
ENGH 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English	
ENGH 705	Literary Theory and Criticism	
ENGH 790	Projects in Literary Studies	

Optional Project or Thesis

Select 3-6 credits of a project or a thesis from the following:		3-6
Project: ²		
ENGH 790	Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)	
Thesis: ³		

ENGH 799	Thesis (6 credits)	
Total Credits		30

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ENGH 685 Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English, and ENGH 705 Literary Theory and Criticism may be repeated once with permission of the director of graduate studies.

2

Students who choose a project take 3 fewer credits of literature.

3

Students who choose a thesis take 6 fewer credits of literature.

Concentration in Folklore Studies (FLKS)

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
FOLK 501	Advanced Introduction to Folklore and Folklife	3
FOLK 510	Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods	3
FOLK 601	Folklore Theory and History	3
Required Courses		
FOLK 550	Topics in Public and Applied Folklore	3
FOLK 560	Topics in Genre and Theory	3
FOLK 570	Topics in Regional Folklore Studies	3
Electives		
Choose 6 credits from the following. These topics courses can be repeated for credit when topic differs from the topic taken to meet the required course requirement above.		6
FOLK 550	Topics in Public and Applied Folklore	
FOLK 560	Topics in Genre and Theory	
FOLK 570	Topics in Regional Folklore Studies	
Courses outside of FOLK when topic is related and with approval of graduate director.		
Experiential Learning		
FOLK 690 or FOLK 699	Field School for Cultural Documentation Internship	3
Capstone		
FOLK 790 or FOLK 799	Project Thesis	3
Total Credits		30

Concentration in Linguistics (LING)

The linguistics concentration combines courses in linguistics with courses in some related area of language study, such as teaching English as a second language, bilingual education, foreign language teaching, or computational linguistics. This course of study is designed to prepare students for teaching in one of these fields or for doctoral work, or employment in the tech industry. The certificate in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/english/linguistics-teaching-english-speakers-languages-tesol-graduate-certificate/>) can be earned concurrently.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Course (Optional)		
Choose one of the following if desired:		0-3

LING 500	Linguistic Variation	
LING 506	Introduction to Linguistic Analysis	
Methods Course		
Choose one of the following:		3
LING 514	Experimental Methods	
LING 515	Statistical Methods in Linguistics	
LING 516	Linguistic Field Methods	
LING 517	Computational and Quantitative Methods in Linguistics	
Core Courses		
Choose four of the following courses:		12
LING 531	Phonetics	
LING 532	Phonology A	
LING 533	Phonology B	
LING 535	Morphology	
LING 536	Syntax A	
LING 537	Syntax B	
LING 538	Semantics and Pragmatics 1	
Breadth Courses		
Choose one of the following:		3
LING 641	First Language Acquisition	
LING 542	Second Language Acquisition 1	
LING 742	Second Language Acquisition 2	
LING 643	Psycholinguistics	
LING 651	Sociolinguistics	
LING 653	Typology	
LING 671	Computational Linguistics I	
LING 771	Computational Linguistics II	
Experiential Learning (Optional)		
Choose one of the following if desired:		0-3
LING 624	Practicum in TESOL	
LING 795	Laboratory Research Experience	
Electives		
Choose two - four LING courses not used to fulfill another requirement (except for LING 998 and LING 999), or other approved course. This can include a thesis option. ¹		6-12
Thesis option (minimum of 6 credits)		
LING 798	Directed Reading and Research	
LING 799	Thesis	
Total Credits: 30		

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In consultation with an advisor, chosen from courses that reflect one or more areas of language study. Electives can be in such areas as linguistics, the teaching of reading or writing, literary criticism, bilingual education, or a foreign language, and may include 6 credits of thesis.

Concentration in Literature (LIT)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses ¹		
ENGH 500	Research in English Studies	3
ENGH 551	Introduction to Literary Theory	3
Literature		
Select 18 credits from the following: ²		18

ENGH 511	Graduate Literature Survey
ENGH 513	Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies
ENGH 526	Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature
ENGH 590	Topics in Folk Narrative
ENGH 591	Topics in Folklore Studies
ENGH 642	Seminar in British Literature
ENGH 644	Seminar in American Literature
ENGH 646	Seminar in Advanced Research
ENGH 661	Seminar in African-American Literature
ENGH 665	Seminar in Global Culture
ENGH 670	Seminar in Film and Media Studies
ENGH 681	Advanced Topics in Folklore Studies
ENGH 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English
ENGH 705	Literary Theory and Criticism
ENGH 790	Projects in Literary Studies
Two Electives or Thesis 6	
Select 6 credits of Electives ³	
ENGH 799	Thesis
Total Credits	30

1

Must be taken in the first 12 credits of the degree. Another course in literary theory and criticism may substitute for ENGH 551 Introduction to Literary Theory with prior written approval of the graduate director.

2

Courses fulfilling this requirement must include at least three 600-level ENGH seminars. Graduate seminars involve focused study of a topic with significant attention to scholarship in the field.

3

Electives taught within the English department may be taken without permission of the graduate director. A maximum of six credits of related study outside the department may substitute for the equivalent number of elective credits, with permission of the graduate director.

4

Students who choose a thesis take 6 fewer credits of literature or electives.

Concentration in Professional and Technical Writing (PTW)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGH 501	Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing ¹	3
ENGH 502	Research Methods in Professional and Technical Writing	3
ENGH 503	Theory and Practice of Editing	3
ENGH 505	Document Design	3
Professional Writing		
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
ENGH 504	Internship	
ENGH 506	Research for Narrative Writing	
ENGH 507	Web Authoring and Design	

ENGH 508	Digital Rhetoric
ENGH 509	Proposal Writing and Development
ENGH 609	Online Writing
ENGH 611	Studies in Rhetoric
ENGH 612	Cultures of Professional Writing
ENGH 613	Technical Communication
ENGH 615	Proseminar in Composition Instruction
ENGH 689	Advanced Proposal Writing
ENGH 690	Special Topics in Writing and Rhetoric
ENGH 696	Northern Virginia Writing Project Teacher/Research Seminar
ENGH 697	Composition Theory

Theory

Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ENGH 508	Digital Rhetoric	
ENGH 551	Introduction to Literary Theory	
ENGH 611	Studies in Rhetoric	
ENGH 675	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGH 676	Introduction to Cultural Studies	

Electives in English

Select 0-3 credits of electives in English (http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/engh/)		0-3
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Project or Thesis

Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis		3-6
Project: ²		
ENGH 797	Projects in Professional and Technical Writing (3 credits)	
Thesis:		
ENGH 799	Thesis (6 credits)	

Total Credits	30
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ENGH 501 Introduction to Professional and Technical Writing should be taken in the first semester of study, if possible.

2

Students who choose a project take one additional elective of 3 credits.

Concentration in the Teaching of Writing and Literature (TWL)

Code	Title	Credits
Research Courses		
ENGH 500	Research in English Studies	3
ENGH 602	Pedagogical Research	3
Teaching Writing		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ENGH 615	Proseminar in Composition Instruction	
ENGH 695	Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program ¹	
ENGH 699	Visiting Writers ²	
Teaching Literature		
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ENGH 610	Proseminar in Teaching the Reading of Literature ³	

ENGH 695	Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program ¹	
Composition Theory		
ENGH 697 or ENGH 611	Composition Theory Studies in Rhetoric	3
Literature Courses		
Select 6 credits from courses in the Literature Concentration		6
Linguistics Course		
Select 3 credits from the following. ⁴		3
LING 520		
LING 507	Field Work in Applied Linguistics	
LING 521	Applied Linguistics: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)	
LING 522	English Grammar and Pedagogy	
EDCI 519	Methods of Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners	
LING 581		
Electives		
6 credits of electives		6
Optional Thesis		
Select 6 credits of thesis in place of elective requirement.		
ENGH 799	Thesis (6 credits)	
Total Credits		30

1

Offered only to full-time teachers through school district contracts.

2

NVWP Summer Institute, open to full-time teachers on an invitation basis.

3

Open to non-TAs in the spring semester.

4

Note all courses, with exception of LING 520, have prerequisites.

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/English, Accelerated MA (Folklore Studies Concentration)

Overview

Highly qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA/BS in their chosen major and an MA in English with a concentration in folklore studies in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 138 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see the department's website.

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits and a minimum overall GPA of 3.50 or above.

Students who are accepted in the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MA program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.50
- Minimum grade of B in each advanced standing course
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing courses (up to 12 credits with a minimum grade of B in each)

- FOLK 501 Advanced Introduction to Folklore and Folklife
- FOLK 510 Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods
- FOLK 550 Topics in Public and Applied Folklore
- FOLK 560 Topics in Genre and Theory
- FOLK 570 Topics in Regional Folklore Studies
- FOLK 601 Folklore Theory and History
- FOLK 690 Field School for Cultural Documentation

Reserve Graduate Credit courses (up to 6 credits) taken while an undergraduate and will only count for the graduate degree program

- FOLK 501 Advanced Introduction to Folklore and Folklife
- FOLK 510 Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods
- FOLK 550 Topics in Public and Applied Folklore
- FOLK 560 Topics in Genre and Theory
- FOLK 570 Topics in Regional Folklore Studies
- FOLK 601 Folklore Theory and History
- FOLK 690 Field School for Cultural Documentation

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements see AP.6.7 Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.

Bachelor's Degree (any)/English, Accelerated MA (Linguistics Concentration)

Overview

Highly qualified undergraduates may be admitted to the bachelor's/accelerated master's program and obtain a BA/BS in a chosen major and an MA in English with a concentration in linguistics in an accelerated time-frame after satisfactory completion of a minimum of 138 credits.

See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) for policies related to this program.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

BAM Pathway Admission Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degree policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>). For information specific to this accelerated master's program, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://linguistics.gmu.edu/programs/LA-MA-ACEL-ENGL/>) on the departmental website.

Students will be considered for admission into the BAM Pathway after completion of a minimum of 60 credits

Students who are accepted in the BAM Pathway will be allowed to register for graduate level courses after successful completion of a minimum of 75 undergraduate credits.

Accelerated Master's Admission Requirements

Students already admitted in the BAM Pathway will be admitted to the MA program, if they have met the following criteria, as verified on the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition form:

- Minimum overall GPA of 3.25
- Completion of LING 300 Linguistic Variation or LING 306 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (Mason Core) (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>) and one other upper-division LING course.
- Successfully meeting Mason's requirements for undergraduate degree conferral (graduation) and completing the application for graduation.

Accelerated Pathway Requirements

To maintain the integrity and quality of both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs, undergraduate students interested in taking graduate courses must choose from the following:

Advanced Standing courses (up to 12 credits)

Students who have already taken the undergraduate equivalents of these courses, before entering the BAM program, can substitute other graduate-level LING courses, as needed, with the approval of the academic advisor.

LING 514 Experimental Methods

LING 515 Statistical Methods in Linguistics
 LING 516 Linguistic Field Methods
 LING 517 Computational and Quantitative Methods in Linguistics
 LING 531 Phonetics
 LING 532 Phonology A
 LING 533 Phonology B
 LING 535 Morphology
 LING 536 Syntax A
 LING 537 Syntax B
 LING 538 Semantics and Pragmatics 1
 LING 542 Second Language Acquisition 1
 LING 641 First Language Acquisition
 LING 643 Psycholinguistics
 LING 651 Sociolinguistics
 LING 653 Typology
 LING 671 Computational Linguistics I

Reserve Graduate Credit courses (up to 6 credits) taken while an undergraduate and will only count for the graduate degree program

500- or 600-level LING courses (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/ling/>)

For more detailed information on coursework and timeline requirements see AP.6.7 Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Degree (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-7>) policies.

Program Outcomes

Program Outcomes

- expand knowledge and skills by joining and participating in a diverse community of teachers, writers, and scholars
- strengthen and develop writing skills
- become more experienced at working collaboratively
- develop arguments through research methods defined by specific disciplines of English studies
- evaluate and produce theoretical positions as defined by specific disciplines of English studies
- develop as professionals and/or gain knowledge of what it means to be a professional in one or more particular fields of English studies
- work on projects that make meaningful contributions to communities and/or contexts outside of the classroom