The master’s 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. 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.

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: 30-33

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.
Optional Project or Thesis
Select 3-6 credits of a project or a thesis from the following: 3-6

- **Project:**
  - ENGH 790 Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)

- **Thesis:**
  - ENGH 799 Thesis (6 credits)

Total Credits 30

1. ENGH 685 Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English, ENGH 705 Literary Theory and Criticism, and ENGH 740 Seminar in English/Cultural Studies may be repeated once with permission of the director of graduate studies.
2. Students who choose a project take 3 fewer credits of literature.

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, or foreign language teaching. This course of study is designed to prepare students for teaching in one of these fields or for doctoral work. The certificate in teaching English as a second language (TESL) can be earned concurrently.

**Core Courses**
- LING 580 First Language Acquisition 3
- LING 690 Generative Phonology 3
- LING 692 Phonology II 3
- LING 785 Semantics and Pragmatics 3
- LING 786 Syntax I 3
- LING 787 Syntax II 3

**Electives**
Select 12 credits of electives 1

Total Credits 30

1. 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)

**Required Courses**
- ENGH 551 Introduction to Literary Theory 3
- ENGH 701 Research in English Studies 3

**Literature**
Select 18 credits from the following: 2

- ENGH 511 Graduate Literature Survey
- ENGH 513 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies
- ENGH 514 Theories of Comparative Literature
- ENGH 526 Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature
- ENGH 530 Graduate Survey in African American Literature
- ENGH 555 Introduction to Cinema Studies
- 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 662 Seminar in Literary Studies
- 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 Writing and Rhetoric (PWR)

**Required Courses**
- ENGH 501 Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric 1
- ENGH 502 Research Methods in Rhetoric and Professional 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
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 696</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Writing Project Teacher/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 697</td>
<td>Composition Theory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theory**

Select 3 credits from the following:

- 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 3-6 credits of electives in English

- 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

**Concentration in the Teaching of Writing and Literature (TWL)**

**Required Course**

- ENGH 701  Research in English Studies

**Writing**

Select 6 credits from the following:

- ENGH 505  Document Design
- ENGH 564  Form of Poetry
- ENGH 565  Forms of Nonfiction
- ENGH 566  Forms of Fiction
- ENGH 611  Studies in Rhetoric
- ENGH 612  Cultures of Professional Writing
- ENGH 613  Technical Communication
- ENGH 616  Nonfiction Writing Workshop
- ENGH 617  Poetry Writing Workshop
- ENGH 618  Fiction Writing Workshop
- ENGH 619  Special Topics in Writing
- ENGH 699  Workshop in English

**Literature**

Select 6 credits from the following:

- ENGH 511  Graduate Literature Survey
- ENGH 513  Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies
- ENGH 514  Theories of Comparative Literature
- ENGH 526  Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children’s Literature
- ENGH 530  Graduate Survey in African American Literature
- ENGH 555  Introduction to Cinema Studies
- ENGH 590  Topics in Folk Narrative
- ENGH 591  Topics in Folklore Studies
- ENGH 611  Studies in Rhetoric (an appropriate section)
- 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 662  Seminar in Literary Studies
- 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

**Project or Thesis**

Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis

- ENGH 797  Projects in Professional Writing and Rhetoric
- ENGH 799  Thesis

**Electives in English**

Select 3-6 credits of electives in English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 505</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGH 611</td>
<td>Studies in Rhetoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGH 675</td>
<td>Feminist Theory and Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 676</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Linguistics**

Select 3 credits from the following:

- LING 507  Field Work in Applied Linguistics
- LING 520  Introduction to Linguistics
- LING 521  Applied Linguistics: Teaching English as a Second Language
- LING 581  Psycholinguistics
- EDCI 519  Methods of Teaching Culturally Linguistically Diverse Learners

**Teaching of Writing**

Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 615  Proseminar in Composition Instruction
- ENGH 695  Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program (offered only to full-time teachers through school district contracts)
- ENGH 699  Workshop in English (NVWP Summer Institute, open to full-time teachers on an invitation basis)

**Teaching of Literature**

Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 610  Proseminar in Teaching the Reading of Literature
- ENGH 695  Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program (offered only to full-time teachers through school district contracts)

**Composition Theory**

Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 697  Composition Theory
- ENGH 611  Studies in Rhetoric (an appropriate section)

**Elective in Literature or Writing**

Select up to 3 credits in literature or writing

Students who choose to complete project or thesis credits below will do so in place of this requirement.

**Optional Project or Thesis**

Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis in place of elective

**Project:**

- ENGH 797  Projects in Professional Writing and Rhetoric
- ENGH 799  Thesis

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1. ENGH 501 Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric should be taken in the first semester of study, if possible.
2. Students who choose a project take one additional elective of 3 credits.

Total Credits: 30
Accelerated Master’s

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

Overview
Highly qualified Mason undergraduates in any major may apply to the accelerated master’s degree in English with a concentration in linguistics. If accepted, students will be able to earn a BA in their chosen major and an MA in English with a concentration in linguistics after satisfactory completion of 144 credits.

For more detailed information, see AP.6.7 Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Degrees. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application 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. For information specific to the accelerated MA in English (linguistics concentration), see Application Requirements and Deadlines (http://english.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MA-ENGL) on the departmental website.

Accelerated Option Requirements
While undergraduate students, accelerated master’s students complete two graduate courses (chosen from LING 690 Generative Phonology, LING 580 First Language Acquisition, LING 692 Phonology II) as indicated on their Accelerated Master’s Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master’s pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

As graduate students, accelerated master’s students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master’s degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master’s program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

1. Students usually fulfill this requirement with LING 520 Introduction to Linguistics. The other courses listed have prerequisites.
2. Students who choose a project take 3 fewer elective credits in literature or writing.
3. Students may arrange to do a thesis working with an advisor and the director of graduate studies in English. Students who pursue this option take 3 fewer elective credits in literature or writing. They must complete 33 (rather than 30) credits to receive their degree.

Reserved Graduate Credit
Students may take up to 6 additional credits of LING 500-level and 600-level courses as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master’s degree, students should use the Bachelor’s/Accelerated Master’s Transition Form.

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.