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.

**Concentration in Cultural Studies (CULT)**

**Required Courses**
- ENGH 676 Introduction to Cultural Studies 3
- ENGH 701 Research in English 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 555 Introduction to Cinema Studies
- 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
- ENGH 740 Seminar in English/Cultural Studies 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 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

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 790 Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)</td>
<td>ENGH 799 Thesis (6 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 580</td>
<td>First Language Acquisition 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 690</td>
<td>Generative Phonology 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 692</td>
<td>Phonology II 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 785</td>
<td>Semantics and Pragmatics 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 786</td>
<td>Syntax I 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 787</td>
<td>Syntax II 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Select 12 credits of electives 1 12

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 701</td>
<td>Research in English Studies 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literature
Select 18 credits from the following: 2 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 511</td>
<td>Graduate Literature Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 513</td>
<td>Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 514</td>
<td>Theories of Comparative Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 526</td>
<td>Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 530</td>
<td>Graduate Survey in African American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 555</td>
<td>Introduction to Cinema Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 590</td>
<td>Topics in Folk Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 591</td>
<td>Topics in Folklore Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 642</td>
<td>Seminar in British Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 644</td>
<td>Seminar in American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 646</td>
<td>Seminar in Advanced Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 661</td>
<td>Seminar in African-American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 662</td>
<td>Seminar in Literary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 665</td>
<td>Seminar in Global Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 670</td>
<td>Seminar in Film and Media Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 681</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Folklore Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 685</td>
<td>Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 705</td>
<td>Literary Theory and Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 790</td>
<td>Projects in Literary Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 30

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


Concentration in Professional Writing and Rhetoric (PWR)

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 502</td>
<td>Research Methods in Rhetoric and Professional Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 503</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Editing 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 505</td>
<td>Document Design 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Writing
Select 9 credits from the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 504</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 506</td>
<td>Research for Narrative Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 507</td>
<td>Web Authoring and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 508</td>
<td>Digital Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 509</td>
<td>Proposal Writing and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 609</td>
<td>Online Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 611</td>
<td>Studies in Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 612</td>
<td>Cultures of Professional Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 613</td>
<td>Technical Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 615</td>
<td>Proseminar in Composition Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 689</td>
<td>Advanced Proposal Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 690</td>
<td>Special Topics in Writing and Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 3-6 credits of electives in English 3-6

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

Thesis:
ENGH 799  Thesis (6 credits)

Total Credits 30

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.

Concentration in the Teaching of Writing and Literature (TWL)

Required Course
ENGH 701  Research in English Studies 3

Writing
Select 6 credits from the following: 6
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: 6
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

Linguistics
Select 3 credits from the following: 3
LING 507  Field Work in Applied Linguistics
LING 520  Introduction to Linguistics
LING 521  Applied Linguistics: Teaching English as a Second Language
LING 522  Modern English Grammar
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: 3
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: 3
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 3-6
Project: 2
ENGH 790  Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)  
Thesis:  
ENGH 799  Thesis (6 credits)  
Total Credits  
30-33

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.

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.

 Reserve 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.