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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 500</td>
<td>Research in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 676</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CULT 802</td>
<td>Histories of Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Two Courses

Select 6 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 511</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 651</td>
<td>Seminar in Global Culture</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 675</td>
<td>Feminist Theory and Criticism</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 705</td>
<td>Literary Theory and Criticism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Three to Five Courses of Literature

Select 9-15 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>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 526</td>
<td>Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature</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 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>

#### Optional Project or Thesis

Select 3-6 credits of a project or a thesis from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 790</td>
<td>Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 790</td>
<td>Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 790</td>
<td>Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concentration in Folklore Studies (FLKS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOLK 501</td>
<td>Advanced Introduction to Folklore and Folkife</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLK 510</td>
<td>Folklore and Ethnographic Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOLK 601</td>
<td>Folklore Theory and History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required Courses

- FOLK 550 Topics in Public and Applied Folklore
- FOLK 560 Topics in Genre and Theory
- FOLK 570 Topics in Regional Folklore Studies

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.

- FOLK 550 Topics in Public and Applied Folklore
- FOLK 560 Topics in Genre and Theory
- FOLK 570 Topics in Regional Folklore Studies

Experiential Learning

- FOLK 690 Field School for Cultural Documentation
- FOLK 699 Internship

Capstone

- FOLK 790 Project
- FOLK 799 Thesis

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, 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) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/english/linguistics-teaching-english-speakers-languages-tesol-graduate-certificate/) can be earned concurrently.

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

Concentration in Literature (LIT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 500</td>
<td>Research in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Literature

Select 18 credits from the following.

- ENGH 511 Graduation 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

Select 6 credits of Electives

- ENGH 799 Thesis

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.

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)

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

#### Professional Writing
Select 9 credits from the following:

- 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:

- 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/)

#### Project or Thesis
Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis

- **Project:**
  - ENGH 797 Projects in Professional and Technical Writing (3 credits)
- **Thesis:**
  - ENGH 799 Thesis (6 credits)

### Total Credits
30

---

1 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 500</td>
<td>Research in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 602</td>
<td>Pedagogical Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Research Courses
Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 615 Proseminar in Composition Instruction
- ENGH 695 Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program

#### Teaching Writing
Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 610 Proseminar in Teaching the Reading of Literature
- ENGH 695 Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program

#### Teaching Literature
Select 3 credits from the following:

- ENGH 610 Proseminar in Teaching the Reading of Literature
- ENGH 695 Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program
- Composition Theory
  - ENGH 697 Composition Theory
  - or ENGH 611 Studies in Rhetoric

#### Literature Courses
Select 6 credits from courses in the Literature Concentration

#### Linguistics Course
Select 3 credits from the following:

- LING 520 Introduction to Linguistics
- 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 Psycholinguistics

#### Electives
6 credits of electives

#### Optional Thesis
Select 6 credits of thesis in place of elective requirement.

#### 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 Introduction to Linguistics, 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 AP6 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 Polices (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 601 Folklore Theory and History
- FOLK 690 Field School for Cultural Documentation
- 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 AP6 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 Polices (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 306 General Linguistics (Mason Core) (http://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/) and one other upper-division LING course.
• 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)

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 580 First Language Acquisition (3 credits)
LING 687 Syntax I (3 credits)
LING 688 Semantics and Pragmatics I (3 credits)
LING 689 Morphology (3 credits)
LING 690 Phonology I (3 credits)
LING 693 Phonetics (3 credits)

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