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. 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 AP6 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, 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:

- 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
- ENGH 705 Literary Theory and Criticism
- ENGH 740 Seminar in English/Cultural Studies

#### Three to Five Courses of Literature

Select 9-15 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 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

#### Optional Project or Thesis

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

- ENGH 551 Introduction to Literary Theory
- ENGH 665 Seminar in Global Culture
Project:  2
ENGH 790  Projects in Literary Studies (3 credits)
Thesis:  3
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.

3  Students who choose a thesis take 6 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.

<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>Generative Phonology</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>
<tr>
<td>LING 787</td>
<td>Syntax II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)
The Concentration in Literature (LIT) requires the completion of 30 credits, of which at least 18 credits must be in literature. Literature courses 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.

<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:  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 590  Topics in Folk Narrative
ENGH 591  Topics in Folklore Studies
ENGH 642  Seminar in British Literature

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric  1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 502</td>
<td>Research Methods in Rhetoric and Professional 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:  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:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 508</td>
<td>Digital Rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 611</td>
<td>Studies in Rhetoric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 675</td>
<td>Feminist Theory and Criticism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 676</td>
<td>Introduction to Cultural Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives in English**

Select 0-3 credits of electives in English  

**Project or Thesis**

Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 797</td>
<td>Projects in Professional Writing and Rhetoric (3 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 799</td>
<td>Thesis (6 credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)**

**Research Courses**

<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>

**Teaching Writing**

Select 3 credits from the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 615</td>
<td>Proseminar in Composition Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 695</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 699</td>
<td>Workshop in English</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Teaching Literature**

Select 3 credits from the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 610</td>
<td>Proseminar in Teaching the Reading of Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 695</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Writing Project Inservice Program</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Composition Theory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 697</td>
<td>Composition Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGH 611</td>
<td>Studies in Rhetoric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Literature Courses**

Select 6 credits from courses in the Literature Concentration  

**Linguistics Course**

Select 3 credits from the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LING 520</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING 507</td>
<td>Field Work in Applied Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select 6 credits of electives  

**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 Introduction to Linguistics, have prerequisites.

**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.

**Notes**

The requirement for completion of the accelerated master’s degree may be satisfied in the fall, spring, or summer semester of any academic year. The School of Professional Studies reserves the right to change the requirements for the program at any time.
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 AP1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.