

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. 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

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)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGL 500	Research in English Studies	3
ENGL 676	Introduction to Cultural Studies	3
CULT 802	Histories of Cultural Studies	3
Two Courses		
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ENGL 551	Introduction to Literary Theory	
ENGL 665	Seminar in Global Culture	
ENGL 670	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	
ENGL 675	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGL 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English ¹	
ENGL 705	Literary Theory and Criticism ¹	
ENGL 740	Seminar in English/Cultural Studies ¹	
Three to Five Courses of Literature		
Select 9-15 credits from the following:		9-15
ENGL 511	Graduate Literature Survey	
ENGL 513	Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies	
ENGL 514	Theories of Comparative Literature	
ENGL 526	Special Topics in the History and Criticism of Children's Literature	
ENGL 530	Graduate Survey in African American Literature	
ENGL 590	Topics in Folk Narrative	
ENGL 591	Topics in Folklore Studies	
ENGL 642	Seminar in British Literature	
ENGL 644	Seminar in American Literature	
ENGL 646	Seminar in Advanced Research	
ENGL 661	Seminar in African-American Literature	
ENGL 662	Seminar in Literary Studies	
ENGL 665	Seminar in Global Culture	
ENGL 670	Seminar in Film and Media Studies	
ENGL 681	Advanced Topics in Folklore Studies	
ENGL 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English	
ENGL 705	Literary Theory and Criticism	
ENGL 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

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.

Code	Title	Credits
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		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)

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 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	
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)

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGH 501	Introduction to Professional Writing and Rhetoric ¹	3
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	

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		0-3
Project or Thesis		
Select 3-6 credits of a project or thesis Project: ²		3-6
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)

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	Workshop in English 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	Composition Theory	3
or ENGH 611	Studies in Rhetoric	
Literature Courses		
Select 6 credits from courses in the Literature Concentration		6
Linguistics Course		
Select 3 credits from the following. ⁴		3
LING 520	Introduction to Linguistics	
LING 507	Field Work in Applied Linguistics	

LING 521	Applied Linguistics: Teaching English as a Second Language	
LING 522	Modern English Grammar	
EDCI 519	Methods of Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners	
LING 581	Psycholinguistics	
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 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.

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.