

M.A. English

The Master of Arts degree in English, offered by the College of Liberal Arts through the Department of English and Speech, guides students in the study of language, composition, and literature. Educational objectives include refining research, bibliographic, and composition skills; studying the nature and uses of language; acquiring theoretical perspectives on the writing process; studying selected authors in depth; and examining literary periods, styles, or movements in detail. A master's degree in English prepares students for more advanced study in English, for teaching English at the secondary or college level, and for many professions that require proficiency in written communication. This degree gives students the option of a thesis or non-thesis program. For course descriptions and other information related to graduate studies visit our website at <http://utb.edu/vpaa/graduate>.

Admission Requirements

Evidence of academic achievement and potential for advanced study and research is required for graduate admission. Specific criteria for Unconditional Admission for Master's degree seeking students in English are:

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- GRE Verbal score of 500
- GRE Analytical score of 500/4.0
- A 3.0 GPA in 9 hrs of upper division English Literature, 3 of which must be ENGL 3302 Literary Analysis or its equivalent.

> Submission of official GRE score report is required prior to admission.

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.5 and/or GRE scores lower than those specified are also encouraged to apply. A complete application packet, including a graduate admission application and all supporting documents required by the department, must be submitted by June 1st - Fall, November 1st - Spring, April 1st - Summer.

Notification of decisions on graduate admission is made by the Office of Graduate Studies based on the admission criteria and recommendation of the academic department. Information related to application procedures and deadlines is available at the Office of Graduate Studies,

Careers:

- K-12 English teacher
- K-12 Language Arts teacher
- Professional writer
- Community college instructor
- Leadership role in the public schools



36-Hour Thesis/Non-thesis Program

The Master of Arts degree without a thesis consists of 36 hours and may include a minor of nine hours in a related field. The Master of Arts degree with thesis consists of 30 hours of coursework with six additional hours awarded for the thesis. With proper planning and with the approval of their graduate committees, students may take six of the 30 required hours in a field that is outside of English but that is directly relevant to the students' Program of Study. The courses in English for both plans must satisfy the following distribution requirements:

- at least two courses must be in English literature, one of which must be in a pre-19th century writer or period, and
- at least two courses must be in American literature, one of which must be in a pre-20th century writer or period.

English 6300, Introduction to Graduate Studies, and English 6341, Literacy Criticism, are also required and must be completed during the first year of graduate studies. In accordance with university policy, graduate credit from another university will be accepted from transfer students.

Thesis

As part of their graduate program in English, students may choose the option of writing a thesis, for which they will receive six hours of graduate credit. Those who take this option must select a thesis committee, composed of a committee chairperson and two other members of the graduate English faculty, to approve the topic and to assist in the preparation of the thesis. (See thesis-non-thesis option under "Academic Information".) Students must pass an oral defense of the completed thesis.

Comprehensive Written Examination

Each candidate for the non-thesis Master of Arts degree in English must pass a comprehensive written examination prepared by the English graduate faculty and administered by the Office of Graduate Office.

"**A**side from the selection of literature, which speaks for itself, the most notable highlight of the program lies in the devotion and professional conduct of its instructors. With dedication and professional integrity, the instructors fulfill their obligations to the students and to the material, and thus provide a challenging and rewarding academic experience. In a balance that is conducive to intellectual growth, the instructors display an expertise that adds insight and dimension to the literature while their personal devotion to the students creates a comfortable yet motivational environment. With my course work completed and my thesis in production, I recognize the instructors as the most valuable asset of the English MA program."

- Anissa Longoria



Course Descriptions

ENGL 6300 Introduction to Graduate Studies

Principles and procedures in scholarly research. Introduction to the problems, techniques, and tools of graduate-level study and research in English. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6301 Shakespeare

A study of the comedies, histories, tragedies, and romances of Shakespeare, emphasizing wide reading of the playwright. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6303 The Bible as Literature

A study of the Bible as literature, emphasizing the genres and literary techniques employed by the writers. The course treats the Bible as a major source for English and American literature. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6305 The Romantic Period

A study of early 19th-century English romantic writers with emphasis on the poets Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats, and Byron. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6308 History of the English Language

A history of the English language from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6310 20th-Century English and American Poetry

A study of major English and American poets of the 20th century. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6312 Milton

A study of the major poems and selected prose of John Milton. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6321 Rhetorical Theory

This course focuses on major historical and theoretical developments in the study of rhetoric and the application of rhetorical concepts in the analysis of discourse. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6341 Literary Criticism

Selected works in literary criticism. Important modern and traditional critical positions and their application to literature. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6362 The Victorian Period

A study of the late 19th-century literature in England. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6363 20th-Century English Novel

A study of the major novelists of England in the 20th century. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6364 Restoration and 18th-Century British Literature

This course explores selected Restoration and 18th century British writers and their works, themes, and literary developments, including fiction, poetry, drama and non-fiction. Prerequisite: Graduate student in good standing. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6371 20th-Century American Novel

A study of the major novelists in the United States in the 20th century. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6372 Hawthorne and Melville

A study of the major novels and short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6373 Topics in Nineteenth Century American Literature

This course explores different approaches to and topics in nineteenth-century American literature, exclusive of Hawthorne and Melville. Subject matter varies depending on instructor and semester but may include such topics as American Revolution, Transcendentalism, Realism, Frontier Humor, Regionalism and Naturalism, as they are

expressed in the work of major and minor authors of the time, including women and minority writers. May be repeated for credit with permission as topics vary. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6391 The Short Story

A study of the origin, development, theory, and craft of the short story. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6398 Special Topics in Literature

This course will cover topics in literature, including such possibilities as single authors or works, or a critical application. The course may be repeated once as topics vary. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 6399 Special Topics in the Composing Process

This course will cover topics in the composing process, including such possibilities as heuristic methods, analysis of style, or the works of a central figure in the discipline. The Course may be repeated once as topics vary. Lec 3, Cr 3

ENGL 7300 Thesis

Pass/Fail Grade. Prerequisite: Approval of graduate advisor

ENGL 7301 Thesis

Pass/Fail Grade. Prerequisite: Approval of graduate advisor