

College of Arts and Sciences
Graduate Program
English

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The College of Arts and Sciences offers a graduate program in English leading to the Master of Arts degree in English.

Program Description

The English M.A. Program fosters intellectual community and promotes close working relationships between graduate students and professors. We offer graduate seminars in American Literature, British Literature, MultiEthnic Literature, Composition, and Cultural Studies, as well as opportunities to take courses in the Colleges of Business and Education. In addition to coursework, our students complete capstone projects and present papers at local and regional conferences. Several of our students take advantage of employment opportunities in A&M-SA's Tutoring Center and University Communications.

The English M.A. faculty are dedicated teachers who have won multiple awards for their classroom instruction. They are also scholars who have presented at national and international conferences and have won competitive research fellowships. Their work has been published in literary journals (such as *Early English Studies*, *Kairos*, and *Twentieth-Century Literature*) and in critical anthologies (such as *Reading the Boss: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Works of Bruce Springsteen*). Because faculty are active in their fields, they can offer an assortment of topic and genre driven seminars that involve students in deep analyses of canonical and non-canonical texts as well as literary theory and criticism.

Graduates are qualified for a range of careers. To date, all of the English M.A. Program's graduates have been successfully placed in other graduate programs, such as the M.F.A. Program at The New School in New York City, or have gone on to teaching careers in San Antonio's secondary schools and community colleges.

Admission Process

Prerequisites

Students must have 18 semester hours of undergraduate courses in English, including a minimum of 12 advanced (junior-senior level) semester hours. The Department has the right to examine students' prerequisites and to accept equivalent hours or to require additional work if necessary.

Grade Point Average and GRE General Test Requirements

Students with a GPA of 3.00-4.00 must have a minimum GRE Verbal score of 142 (15th percentile) and a GRE Writing score of 3 (14th percentile). Students with a cumulative GPA less than 2.99 must have a GRE Verbal score of 147 (32nd percentile) and a GRE writing score of 3 (14th percentile). If a student with less than a 2.60 GPA meets these GRE requirements (146 Verbal and 3 Writing) and seems prepared for graduate study, the English program will submit a memo to Admissions justifying our decision to admit him/her.

Unless the applicant already has an M.A. from an accredited institution, official GRE scores, taken within the last 5 years, must be submitted to the Admissions Office. Students are strongly encouraged to submit GRE scores with their application. If students do not submit GRE scores with their transcripts, they will be admitted conditionally, and they will not be permitted to continue in the program if they do not meet the required GRE scores. The Admissions Office will accept the scores no later than the midpoint of the student's first semester.

Students who already have an M.A. from an accredited institution do not have to submit GRE scores with their application.

Writing Sample

Applicants must submit a sample of their analytical writing of 6-10 pages. The sample should demonstrate your ability to think analytically, write clearly, and sustain an argument.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation. At least one of these letters should come from one of your former professors.

Application

Applicants must submit their application and required documents by the appropriate semester deadline to the Office of Admissions. The application is available online at Apply Texas <http://www.applytexas.org>. For questions regarding the application process, please contact The Welcome Center at 210-784-1300.

Transcripts

Applicants must mail all official graduate and undergraduate transcripts to:

Texas A&M University-San Antonio;
ATTN: Graduate Admissions;
One University Way;
San Antonio, TX 78224.

Program Details

The English M.A. is a 36 hour Program. Students are required to take Introduction to Graduate Studies, Topics in Rhetoric and Composition, Topics in American Literature, and Topics in British Literature. Students must also choose between a Graduate Research Project (3 hours) or a Thesis (6 hours) for their capstone project. Students choose the remainder of their coursework based on their interests. Since the topics courses frequently rotate, students can repeat these topics courses up to three times each.

Once students have completed 18 hours of coursework, they are eligible to take the Graduate Exam, which is typically offered in August and January. The Graduate Exam is a four-hour test focusing on one poem and one longer work. Students must pass the Exam in order to receive their degrees.

Curricula

ENGL 5300 Introduction to Graduate Studies* 3 credit hours
ENGL 5301 Topics in Rhetoric and Composition 3 credit hours
ENGL 5302 Theory and Practice of Teaching Writing* 3 credit hours
ENGL 5315 Literary and Critical History 3 credit hours
ENGL 5310 Topics in Linguistics 3 credit hours
ENGL 5320 Topics in British Literature* 3 credit hours
ENGL 5330 Gender Studies 3 credit hours
ENGL 5340 Major Authors 3 credit hours
ENGL 5350 Studies in Multi-Ethnic Literature 3 credit hours
ENGL 5360 Topics in American Literature* 3 credit hours
ENGL 5370 Special Topics in Literature 3 credit hours
ENGL 5375 Cultural Studies 3 credit hours
ENGL 5380 Visual Studies 3 credit hours

*Denotes required course

Students will also be required to complete a Master's Thesis (ENGL 5306) or Graduate Research Project (ENGL 5305) to satisfy degree requirements. To be eligible to begin Thesis or GRP work, students must have completed 24 hours of graduate coursework.