

ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, AND JOURNALISM

English, Modern Languages, and Journalism

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Graduate Faculty

Professors: Kevin Kienholz, Luisa Perez, Rachelle Smith, Mel Storm, and Amy Sage Webb.

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MA English

Like other English graduate programs throughout North America, the MA program in English at ESU is in a state of constant change and continuous improvement. New critical theories and new approaches to the study of texts and languages are being brought to bear on both canonical and non-canonical works, and on the practices of teaching, research, and writing. We in the Department of English, Modern Languages, and Journalism are proud to offer a graduate program in English in which students are encouraged not just to learn about these developments, but to engage with the faculty in the ongoing dialogue that creates and renews our fields of study.

For some of our recent graduates, the MA in English has led to such nationally-ranked PhD programs as those at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Riverside. Other MA graduates have chosen to pursue corporate and government employment, secondary teaching, and teaching in community colleges. ESU's graduate program in English prepares students for this wide range of career paths by combining a flexible, individually-tailored academic program with opportunities for supervised training and experience in the teaching of

composition, and for participation alongside faculty in professional conferences and publications.

Through our small classes, careful advising, and strong mentoring relationships, you will become part of a close-knit and active community of teacher-scholars. On behalf of the entire English faculty, I welcome you to our community and urge you to explore all the avenues for intellectual and professional development that graduate study opens to you.

Admissions Requirements

In addition to the general admissions requirements of the Graduate School, candidates for the Master of Arts degree in English should have earned at least a 2.75 overall grade-point average or a 3.0 in the major. Applicants with baccalaureate degrees in fields other than English are given full consideration, although they may be required to take additional course work.

All applicants should submit the following: 1) a letter of application stating the applicant's reasons for requesting admission and his or her future plans; 2) three letters of recommendation written by persons with knowledge of the candidate's potential for success in graduate school; and 3) a writing sample--a critical research paper from all applicants and, in addition, a creative work or works from applicants pursuing the creative writing emphasis. Applicants should send GRE scores if they are available, but the GRE is not required.

Applicants who have earned degrees at institutions in countries in which English is not the native language must score at least 575 on the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or equivalent. Examination before being admitted to the MA program in English.

Assistantships, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Most of our full-time graduate students finance their studies by holding graduate teaching assistantships, teaching freshman composition while pursuing their own course work. The department regularly supplements the university's teaching assistant stipends with endowed funds.

Courses of Study

Students in the MA program in English may elect to follow one of three courses of study--in literature,

creative writing, or community college/high-school teaching. Candidates following the thesis option complete 34 hours of course work, including 4 hours of EG899, Thesis, MA Candidates following the non-thesis option complete 33 hours of course work. While some specific courses may be required, depending on the emphasis elected, students must take at least 60% of their course work at the 700- and 800-levels.

Core Requirements

Regardless of the emphasis selected (see below), all graduate students in English take Introduction to Graduate Study (EG 810). Designed to provide the tools and background necessary to undertake scholarly research in English, this course is offered every fall semester.

Beyond EG 810, there are no specific course requirements. However, to ensure a balance of course work, each MA student is required to fulfill an 18-hour area requirement:

Area A: two courses in literature written before 1830,

Area B: two courses in literature written after 1830,

Area C: two courses in language/rhetoric/criticism.

These requirements may be met with a broad variety of courses; specific detailed course descriptions are available each semester before the registration period begins. To complete the remaining course work, students select one of two options:

Option A: 9 hours of elective courses plus a scholarly thesis (4 credit hours), normally 40-50 pages--incorporating significantly more research than customarily expected of a graduate course paper--or a creative thesis (4 credit hours), a minimum of 40 pages, in which the student places the creative portion of his or her work within a critical or theoretical framework.

OR

Option B: 12 hours of elective courses, plus either 1) an independent research project (minimum length: 20 pages), customarily derived from previous course work;

OR

2) a 20-minute scholarly paper, customarily derived from previous course work, presented to the public.

Portfolio Assessment

At the end of the final term of study, the candidate will submit a portfolio of work, consisting of (1) an introduction to the contents of the portfolio, including the contexts in which each of the pieces was written (class, semester, instructor, course emphases, etc.); (2) a copy of the writing sample submitted upon application to the program; (3) three papers written for courses in the student's MA program, representing, as nearly as possible, the first, middle, and final semesters of coursework; (4) a copy of the final thesis or project paper completed for Option A or Option B; and (5) an analysis of the portfolio's contents.

Literature Emphasis

Candidates following the thesis option complete 34 hours of course work, including 4 hours of EG 899, Thesis, MA Candidates following the non-thesis option complete 33 hours of course work. While choices are naturally limited by actual course offerings in any given semester, literature MA students may take a broad range of courses in English and American language and literature. To accommodate special interests and needs, up to 6 hours of course work may be taken outside the Department of English, Modern Languages, and Journalism.

Creative Writing Emphasis

Students who wish to pursue the creative writing emphasis must submit a portfolio of original work (at least 10 pages of poetry or 15 pages of fiction) upon application; a creative thesis is written after completion of course work. Students pursuing the creative writing emphasis may take up to 12 hours of creative writing courses.

Rhetoric/Pedagogy Emphasis

Students who wish to pursue careers as community college teachers or who wish to add to their skill as high-school teachers may follow this emphasis, which includes 18 hours of course work in the history and theory of rhetoric and criticism, and in the history and structure of the English language. They may take up to 12 hours of pedagogical courses, 6 of which must be in courses offered in the Department of English, Modern Languages, and Journalism.

Dual Degree in English and Library Information Management

Students may work toward a dual degree in English and in Library Science and apply up to 6 hours from each degree toward the requirements of the other.

This program combines the MA degree with a professional degree (MLS), a combination well suited for careers in business, government, and education.

COURSES

Courses numbered 500-699 are generally intended for advanced undergraduates and for graduate students who need more preparation before going on for more specialized study of an author or area. Courses numbered 700-799 are primarily for graduate students, although advanced undergraduates with special interests and appropriate backgrounds may be permitted to enroll, with the written permission of the instructor. Courses numbered 800-899 are for graduate students only.

CERTIFICATE: English

Application procedures:

Applicants follow the standard procedures for applying to the ESU English Graduate Program. Applications are submitted online through the ESU Graduate School at <http://www.emporia.edu/grad/admissions/>. The statement of purpose and writing sample are waived for applicants who do not intend to pursue a full master's degree. (At 12 hours non-degree-seeking participants who decide they wish to pursue the MA must provide any application materials not already received.)

Requirements for admission:

Candidates for the Graduate Certificate in English should have earned at least a 2.75 overall grade-point average or a 3.0 in the major.

Time limit:

There is a 7-year time limit for completion of the master's degree and certificate from the time the first class is taken.

Curriculum:

Courses must be at the 700 level or above (six hours of coursework at the 500 level may be applied toward the certificate) and must include the following:

Core: Literature before 1830	3 hours
Core: Literature after 1830	3 hours
Core: Language/Rhetoric/Theory/Pedagogy	6 hours
English electives:	6 hours
Total Hours	18 hours

Grades:

No grade lower than a B- may be counted toward the 18-hour Certificate-program requirement.

Transfer Credit:

Up to six (6) hours of English credit may be transferred from an approved/accredited institution of recognized standing if a grade of B or higher was earned in those credits and if the credit was applicable toward a graduate degree at the university at which the course was taken.

Post-Certificate master's work:

For those who wish to continue, the 18 hours of coursework for the Certificate will be automatically credited toward the requirements for the MA, thesis or non-thesis option. Participants who decide to seek a master's may apply toward that degree only 12 hours of credit earned before acceptance into the MA program, so the full MA application should be completed by the time 12 hours have been earned. Complete information about the ESU master's degree can be found and downloaded at <https://www.emporia.edu/contentAsset/raw-data/15250535-dd4d-4ae2-ae3b-1837884fd57e/programPdf>.