

# ENGLISH, M.A.

Graduate Handbook (<http://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/pdfs/englishgraduatehandbook.pdf>)

As a graduate student in Saint Louis University's Department of English (<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english>), you will receive scholarly training in English language and literature. Encountering courses that span the full experience of works in the English language – from Old Norse to Mark Twain and Gertrude Stein, and from Chaucer and Shakespeare to contemporary and postcolonial writing – you will have the chance to pursue specializations in a variety of literary fields and in the study of rhetoric and composition.

SLU's English M.A. program is responsive to interdisciplinary interests and to all of the theoretical discourses that connect the study of English language and literature to other literatures and cultures. As a student in the Master of Arts in English program, you will be equipped with the disciplines and methods of linguistic and literary analysis that will prepare you professionally for the career you seek.

English M.A. students bring a diversity of perspectives and interests to our graduate classes. As a student in the program, you will have many opportunities for close interactions with other students and faculty. Graduate students also run more than six student organizations.

## Curriculum Overview

The non-thesis option for the Master of Arts in English degree requires 30 credits of coursework beyond the B.A. The thesis option, which is recommended for those interested in eventually pursuing a Ph.D., permits students to substitute a thesis for six of the 30 required credits of coursework. Both options are normally completed in two years. M.A. students planning to teach at Saint Louis University are required to take a class in the teaching of writing and all must take courses in the methods of literary research and critical theory, as well as courses in four out of five required areas.

At the conclusion of their coursework, students pursuing the non-thesis option take a one-hour oral exam. Students pursuing the thesis option select a topic in consultation with a director, have their completed thesis reviewed by a board consisting of the director and two other faculty members and must pass an oral exam over both the thesis and the general M.A. reading list. Both the thesis and non-thesis options for SLU's English M.A. program are offered at Saint Louis University's Madrid campus.

Madrid Campus

Both the thesis and non-thesis English M.A. at SLU options are offered at the Madrid, Spain campus. Students who enroll at the Madrid campus are required to spend one semester, during the academic year or a six-week summer term, in residence at the St. Louis campus. For further information on the Madrid Campus and the M.A. program there, visit <http://spain.slu.edu>.

## Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Saint Louis University's English department is affiliated with the Walter J. Ong Center for Digital Humanities. In addition to participating in various writing programs, including University Writing Services, English faculty and graduate students participate in departmental research colloquia and reading groups. SLU also hosts the journal *African American*

*Review*, as well as the New Chaucer Society, the world's leading scholarly organization in medieval literature and culture.

## Admission Requirements

Most admitted students meet the following criteria:

- Creative and ambitious with high levels of academic distinction and sophistication, at well-regarded colleges and universities with rigorous B.A./M.A. programs.
- High GPA (3.7 and above in English).
- Scored at or above the 90th percentile on the Verbal portion and/or 4.5 or above on the Essay portion of the GRE General Test.
- Identified fields/areas of intended study, possible thesis/dissertation topics, and specific faculty in the department with whom students might wish to work.
- Professional goal statement that aligns well with the curricula the department offers. The statement should be no more than 750 words and should lay out professional and intellectual goals as well as the interest in graduate studies in English. While plans may change, this statement will help the department assess the grasp of the field and the ability to describe ideas coherently and compellingly. The statement should address:
  - The specific field of English studies that students are interested in.
  - How students would like to contribute to existing research and criticism in the area of interest.
  - The critical and scholarly approaches to literature students have found most productive.
  - The faculty members students would prefer to work with.
- Sufficient TOEFL score (for international students).

## Application Requirements

- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation assessing potential in graduate studies
- GRE
- Résumé
- Writing sample (10 pages demonstrating competence in analyzing literary texts; this can be an excerpt taken from a longer piece)
- Professional goal statement

## Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (<http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency>)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor's bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the

grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

## Application Deadline

Completed applications are due by January 3. Students cannot begin the program in the spring semester or a summer session. 1818 instructors seeking a graduate degree should consult with the director of graduate studies in English.

Please do not forward any application materials directly to the Department of English. All application materials must be submitted through the Office of Graduate Admission.

For application forms and more information, contact the Office of Graduate Admission.

## Review Process

Members of the department's graduate committee examine applicants' materials and make admission and funding recommendations.

## Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantship, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at <http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid>.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a foundational knowledge of literary/rhetorical histories, aesthetics, cultures and emerging areas of inquiry, including an awareness of cultural diversity within literary traditions.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate knowledge of research expectations, and of theoretical approaches, requisite for advanced study in English, including appropriate research resources and tools.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an ability to engage productively with relevant critical debates through written and spoken argument.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
ENGL 5000	Methods of Literary Research	3
ENGL 5110	Literary Theory	3
<b>Teaching Requirement</b>		
Required of those who teach writing classes offered by the Department.		
ENGL 5010	Teaching Writing	3
<b>Distributive Requirements</b>		
Select one course in four of the following five fields:		12
Anglo-Saxon and/or Medieval Literature		
Renaissance/Early Modern Literature (ca. 1500-1800)		
Literature of the Long 19th Century (ca. 1789-1914): British, American, African American, or Transatlantic		

Modern and/or Contemporary Literature: British, Irish, American, African American, Transatlantic, or Postcolonial Rhetoric and/or Composition <sup>1</sup>

### Elective Courses

Select one of the following options: 12

#### Thesis Option

English Electives

EAS 5990 Thesis Research

#### Non-Thesis Option

English Electives

Total Credits 33

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of ENGL 5010 Teaching Writing (3 cr)

## Non-Course Requirements

### Oral Examination

At the conclusion of their coursework, all master's students must take a one-hour oral examination on works drawn from a list that is made available to them at the outset of their program of study. Students who choose the thesis option will also be examined orally on their theses in separate one-hour examinations.

### Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

## Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Students must select one of three degree completion options:

1. **Non-Thesis Option:** 30 credits of coursework and a final oral exam in the final semester.
2. **Essay Option:** 27 credits of coursework and ENGL 5980 Graduate Reading Course (1-3 cr), in their final semester.
3. **Thesis Option:** 24 credits of coursework and six credits of ENGL 5990 Thesis Research (0-6 cr), either in their final semester or divided between the third and fourth semesters.

## Non-Thesis Option

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
!ENGL 5000	Methods of Literary Research	3
!ENGL 5010	Teaching Writing	3
! ENGL 6XXX	6000-level English Elective	3
		Credits
		9

<b>Spring</b>		
!ENGL 5110	Literary Theory	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		6

<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		9

<b>Spring</b>		
! Completion of final oral exam		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		30

**Essay Option**

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
!ENGL 5000	Methods of Literary Research	3
!ENGL 5010	Teaching Writing	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		9

<b>Spring</b>		
!ENGL 5110	Literary Theory	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		6

<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		9

<b>Spring</b>		
! Completion of essay AND completion of final oral exam		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3

!ENGL 5980	Graduate Reading Course	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		30

**Thesis Option**

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
!ENGL 5000	Methods of Literary Research	3
!ENGL 5010	Teaching Writing	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		9

<b>Spring</b>		
!ENGL 5110	Literary Theory	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
Credits		6

<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
!ENGL 5990	Thesis Research	3
Credits		9

<b>Spring</b>		
! Completion of thesis/essay AND completion of final oral exam		
! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX	5000-level or 6000-level English elective	3
!ENGL 5990	Thesis Research	3
Credits		6
Total Credits		30

**Program Notes**

Students must take both ENGL 5000 Methods of Literary Research (3 cr) and ENGL 5110 Literary Theory (3 cr), as well as 12 credits in four of the following five fields:

1. Anglo-Saxon and/or Medieval Literature (three credits)
2. Renaissance / Early Modern Literature (c. 1500-1800) (three credits)
3. Literature of the long 19th century (c. 1789-1914): British, American, African American or Transatlantic (three credits)
4. Modern and/or contemporary literature: British, Irish, American, African American, Transatlantic or Postcolonial (three credits)
5. Rhetoric and/or Composition exclusive of ENGL 5010 Teaching Writing (3 cr)