ENGLISH, PH.D.

Saint Louis University's Ph.D. in English provides students with advanced scholarly training in a variety of literary fields and in the study of rhetoric and composition. Students in our program receive training in pedagogy, research, writing, and theory. The Ph.D. prepares students for careers in higher education as well as in non-academic fields including publishing, editing and secondary education.

Curriculum Overview

All English Ph.D. candidates at Saint Louis University must display reading proficiency in one modern foreign language relevant to their research. Students concentrating in medieval or renaissance literature also need to demonstrate competence in either Latin or classical Greek. All doctoral students must also take courses in three out of five required areas.

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

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, the English faculty and graduate students participate in departmental research colloquia and reading groups. SLU also hosts the journal African American Review.

Careers

Recent graduates with a Ph.D. in English from SLU have accepted tenure-track faculty positions at Creighton University, University of Central Florida, University of Detroit-Mercy, Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla), Truman State University and University of North Texas, Dallas.

Ph.D. graduates who pursued non-academic paths have accepted positions such as document analyst at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, corporate training manager at Enterprise Holdings and the director of research communication at Washington University's School of Medicine.

Admission Requirements

Most admitted students meet the following criteria:

- An M.A. in English or related field
- High levels of academic distinction at well-regarded colleges and universities with rigorous B.A./M.A. programs.
- High GPA (3.7 and above in English).
- Identified fields/areas of intended study, possible thesis/dissertation topics, and specific faculty in the department with whom students might wish to work.
- A 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 student's 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 of interest to students
  - How students would like to contribute to existing research and criticism in an area of interest
  - The critical and scholarly approaches to literature students have found most productive
  - The faculty members with whom students would prefer to work with.
  - Sufficient TOEFL score (for international students).

Transferring into the Doctoral Program

Applications by SLU M.A. students seeking to transfer into the doctoral program are made by separate petition at the end of the fall semester of the master's candidate's second year following a protocol described in the English Department Graduate Handbook (http://catalog.slu.edu/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/english/english-ma/EnglishGraduateHandbook2019.pdf).

Application Requirements

Application Deadline

Completed applications are due by January 19. 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 Office of Graduate Admission.

For application forms and more information, contact the Office of Graduate Admission (https://www.slu.edu/admission/graduate/).
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 a 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

Learning Outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge of literary
histories, aesthetics, cultures, and emerging areas of inquiry,
including an awareness of cultural diversity within literary traditions.
2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate proficiency in formulating
written and spoken arguments situated within a historical or
methodological field of study, as defined in the sections of the
department’s Graduate Handbook covering Ph.D. exams.
3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to write and present
papers or their equivalent within professional contexts.
4. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to conceptualize,
develop, and bring to successful completion an original, sustained,
and coherent independent research project (e.g., the dissertation)
that contributes to one’s field of specialization.
5. Graduates will be able to demonstrate the skills necessary for
teaching at the undergraduate level.
6. Graduates will be able to demonstrate an ability to generate degree-
apropriate job search materials.

Requirements
Students are required to take a minimum of 24 credits in English course
work beyond the M.A. Six credits may be taken at the 4000-level.
ENGL 5000 Methods of Literary Research (3 cr), ENGL 5010 Teaching
Writing (3 cr), and ENGL 5110 Literary Theory (3 cr) are required of all
students who have not taken equivalent courses in another program as
part of their prior training.

Distributive Requirements
Beyond these courses, Ph.D. candidates who have taken course work
in four of the five following fields as Master’s students need only take 9
of 24 required credits in three of the five fields as part of their doctoral
course work. Doctoral students who have not met the threshold Master’s
level criterion must take 12 credits in four of the following five fields:

• 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 exclusive of ENGL 5010 Teaching
Writing (3 cr)

In addition, all Ph.D. students, after their first year, must distribute
registrations for 12 credits of ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research over
several terms.

Non-Course Requirements
Language Requirement
Before taking their comprehensive exams, all Ph.D. candidates must
display reading proficiency in one modern foreign language relevant
to their research. Students concentrating in medieval or renaissance
literature also need to demonstrate competence in either Latin or
Classical Greek.

Doctoral Competency Exam
Ph.D. candidates take a Doctoral Competency Exam that has written and
oral components and is described in the English Department Graduate
Handbook.

Public Defense
Completed dissertations are assessed by the student’s committee and
are formally accepted after a public defense.

Continuation Standards
Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.30
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>! ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX 5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5XXX or 6XXX 5000-level or 6000-level English elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year Three
Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparations for Exams and Dissertation Prospectus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language Course (see Program Notes)</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of Written &amp; Oral Comprehensive Exams &amp; Dissertation Prospectus Approval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year Four
Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year Five
Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5899 Professionalization Practicum</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 36-39

Program Notes

Students who have taken graduate coursework in four of the five following fields as master's students, beyond completing ENGL 5000 Methods of Literary Research (3 cr), ENGL 5010 Teaching Writing (3 cr), and ENGL 5110 Literary Theory (3 cr), need only take 9 (of 24 required) hours in three of the five fields as part of their doctoral coursework. Doctoral students who have not met the threshold master's level criterion must take 12 (of 24 required) hours in four of the following five fields:

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

Prior to taking his/her qualifying examinations, every student in the doctoral program must certify a reading competence in scholarship drawn from one modern foreign language relevant to his/her literary study. French, German, and Spanish are the modern languages in which the university has been able to provide regular support and instruction, but other relevant languages are equally acceptable. Additional language competence is required of students working in Medieval or Early Modern British Literature, who must demonstrate their ability to read literature written in Latin, classical Greek, or, upon special request, Hebrew.

There are four ways to demonstrate reading competence in a foreign language:

1. By documenting reading competence as an M.A. student.
2. By performing satisfactorily in an accelerated reading course by the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures.
3. By successfully completing a 4000-level course in the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures.
4. Through a two-hour examination administered by the English department and graded by the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures.

Contact Us

For additional information about our program, please contact

Rachel Greenwald Smith
Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English
rachel.g.smith@slu.edu