English

Degrees Offered

- Master of Arts
- Master of Arts in Professional Writing and Editing
- Master of Fine Arts
- Doctor of Philosophy

Master of Arts

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in English is a two-year program designed for students who have shown an aptitude for sustained literary study and who desire to pursue a more intensive and extensive academic training. The M.A. program has five primary goals: (1) to extend the student’s knowledge of the cultural, linguistic, and literary heritage of Great Britain, America, and other English-speaking lands, (2) to introduce students to the critical and professional discourses of academics in literary and linguistic studies, (3) to develop the student’s research, writing, and analytical skills, which are necessary for professional success, (4) to provide professional training to prepare students to teach English at the post-secondary level, and (5) to counsel students to craft their program of study to meet their professional and personal needs.

The M.A. program meets these goals by providing a rotation of courses in literature, linguistics, theory, and pedagogy that require extensive reading, writing, research, and oral presentations. With small classes, students receive individual attention from the faculty, which facilitates student progress. M.A. students are eligible for teaching assistantships within the English Department, which provides training in pedagogy.

The knowledge and skills that students acquire in the M.A. program provide the requisite foundation to pursue doctoral work in English, with the ultimate goal of becoming a professional scholar and academic at a post-secondary institution. The academic training provided by the M.A. also is applicable for careers in secondary education, professional writing, and editing.

Master of Arts in Professional Writing and Editing

The M.A. in Professional Writing and Editing is a thirty-hour degree that combines theories of writing with practice in real-world writing situations. Students will study professional writing theory, the history of rhetoric, editing, rhetorical analysis, new modes of digital composition, and writing ethics. This degree prepares students for a variety of career options, including technical writing and editing, project management, writing consulting, writing instruction, and advanced graduate study in rhetoric and composition. The degree is designed for both newly-graduated undergraduates and working adults who want more training in writing and editing.

Master of Fine Arts

The Master of Fine Arts in creative writing is a three-year academic/studio program that combines an apprenticeship to the craft with more traditionally academic elements. This approach seeks to train students in ways that reflect the realities of the writer/artist’s evolving role in the academy. Because writers, when hired to teach, are often asked to handle a variety of courses beyond the creative writing workshop, the academic/studio format requires students to take literature and pedagogy courses in addition to writing workshops.

Thus, the M.F.A. is both an academic and a professional degree. As part of WVU’s comprehensive Center for Writing Excellence, this degree allows students to prepare for careers in teaching or professional writing/editing. Our objective is to nurture and mentor the many writers in the region seeking professional training. We also intend to attract student writers from all over the country to West Virginia for the opportunity to live and write in this culturally-rich state and to work with our faculty. The ultimate goal is to produce writers who will publish literature and contribute to the culture. A secondary goal is to offer practical skills and opportunities to writers interested in pursuing writing-related professions.

Doctor of Philosophy

The doctoral program in English offers opportunities for specialization in literary studies, cultural studies, or composition and rhetoric. The program has five goals: (1) to build upon the broad foundations of the M.A. degree’s focus on the cultural, linguistic, and literary heritage of Britain, America, and other English-speaking lands, (2) to help students to develop fluency in the critical discourses of the profession, (3) to help students to develop professional competency in three fields of research, as dictated by the Examination for Formal Admission to Candidacy, (4) to help students to develop the research, writing, and analytical skills necessary for professional success, and (5) to provide professional training and counseling to prepare graduates to teach English professionally on the post-secondary level.

These goals are met by the various features of our program, which include coursework, examinations, and both formal and informal instruction and advising regarding professional teaching and research responsibilities. Doctoral study culminates in the writing of the dissertation, which is designed to contribute to the critical and/or theoretical discussion in its field and to prepare the doctoral candidate for further research and publication as a professional scholar and teacher.
Faculty

Chair
• James Harms - M.F.A. (Indiana University)

Ph.D. Program Supervisor
• Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)

M.A. Program Supervisor
• Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)

M.F.A. Program Supervisor
• Mary Ann Samyn - M.F.A. (University of Virginia)

M.A. P.W.E. Program Supervisor
• Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western University)

Professors
• Dennis Allen - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Critical Theory, Prose Fiction, Popular Culture
• Rudolph P. Almasy - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Renaissance and Reformation Studies
• Laura Brady - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of Outstanding Teaching, Composition and Rhetorical Theory, Writing Program Administration, Women’s Studies
• Mark Brazaitis - M.F.A. (Bowling Green State University)
  Creative Writing: Fiction
• James Harms - M.F.A. (Indiana University)
  Creative Writing: Poetry, Contemporary Poetry
• Kirk Hazen - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
  Linguistics, Sociolinguistics
• Kevin Oderman - Ph.D. (University of California, Santa Barbara)
  American Poetry, American Literature, Creative Writing: Essay
• Mary Ann Samyn - M.F.A. (University of Virginia)
  Creative Writing: Poetry
• Timothy Sweet - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of American Literature, American Studies (17th-19th Century), Literature and Environment, Native American Literature

Associate Professors
• Sandy Baldwin - Ph.D. (New York University)
  Literature and Media Technology, 20th-century American Literature, Critical Theory
• Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)
  Technical and Professional Writing, Digital Literacy
• Gwen Bergner - Ph.D. (Princeton University)
  African-American and Multi-ethnic Literatures, Post-colonial Studies
• Cari Carpenter - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
  19th-century American Literature, Native American Literature
• Ryan Claycomb - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  20th-century British Literature, Drama
• Anna Shannon Ellenbein - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
  American Literature, Women’s Studies, Film
• Lara Farina - Ph.D. (Fordham University)
  Medieval Literature and Culture, Gender Studies
• Marilyn Francus - Ph.D. (Columbia University)
  Restoration and 18th-century Literature and Culture, Women’s Studies, Satire, History of the Novel
• Michael Germana - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
American Studies, 19th and 20th-century American Literature, Popular Culture

- Catherine Gouge - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Professional Writing, New Media Studies, Distance Learning

- Rosemary Hathaway - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Folklore, English Education, 20th-century American Literature

- Ellesa High - Ph.D. (Ohio University)
  American Indian literature, Creative Writing: Fiction and Nonfiction, Appalachian Studies

- Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
  Romanticism and 18th-century British Literature

- John Lamb - Ph.D. (New York University)
  Assistant Editor of Victorian Poetry, Victorian Literature and Culture, Victorian Historiography

- Kathleen O’Hearn Ryan - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)
  20th-century American Literature

- Nathalie Singh-Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
  Writing Center Theory and Practice, Writing Assessment

- Ethel Morgan Smith - M.A. (Hollins College)
  Creative Writing: Fiction and Nonfiction Essay; African-American Literature

- Lisa Weihman - Ph.D. (New York University)
  19th and 20th-century British and Irish Literature and Culture

Assistant Professors

- Piers Brown - Ph.D. (University of Toronto)
  Early Modern British Studies, Poetics, History of the Book

- Lowell Duckert - Ph.D. (George Washington University)
  Early Modern British Studies, Literature and Environment

- John Jones - Ph.D. (University of Texas)
  Composition and Rhetoric, Digital Literacy

- Sarah Neville - Ph.D. (University of New Brunswick)
  Early Modern British Studies, History of the Book

- Tom Sura - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Composition and Rhetoric, Writing Program Administration

- Glenn Taylor - M.F.A. (Texas State University)
  Creative Writing: Fiction

Professors Emeriti

- Timothy Dow Adams
- Gail Galloway Adams
- Patrick Conner - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)

Admissions

MA in English

To be admitted to the Department of English as prospective candidates for the degree of master of arts, students are expected to have completed work comparable to the department’s undergraduate requirement for English majors (but with records distinctly above the average), and to present as part of their applications their scores on the verbal and analytic sections of the Graduate Record Examination General Aptitude Test and, if non-native speakers of English, their TOEFL scores. Past experience has shown that successful graduate students usually score at least the sixtieth percentile on the verbal section of the GRE. Students also must provide three letters of reference and a sample of their academic writing.

Professional Writing and Editing

Prospective candidates for admission are expected to have completed an undergraduate degree in English or an allied field with a record distinctly above average or to have at least two years’ work experience in writing and editing. Applications must be supported by a portfolio of written work and three letters of recommendation. The GRE analytical writing test, taken within the last five years, is recommended; successful candidates will typically present a score of five or above. The program recognizes, however, that not all potentially excellent graduate students fit this profile and welcomes applications from individuals who can make a strong case that they will succeed. Non-native English speakers must present TOEFL scores of at least 600 for the written exam or equivalent scores for the online version.
Creative Writing

Prospective candidates for the degree of master of fine arts are normally expected to have completed a bachelor's degree in English. Admission to the program is based primarily on the excellence of a substantial writing sample in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry (ten to twenty pages of poetry; twenty to thirty pages of prose). Also required are Graduate Record Examination scores, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. Non-native speakers of English must present TOEFL scores. Past experience has shown that successful graduate students usually score above the sixtieth percentile on the verbal section of the GRE.

PhD in English

Applicants for admission to the program will be judged on the bases of academic record, three recommendations from former teachers, a statement of purpose outlining their academic and professional goals, a sample of their academic writing, and Graduate Record Examination General Aptitude Test scores. Non-native speakers of English must also present their TOEFL scores.

Master of Arts

Non-thesis Option

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 680</td>
<td>Introduction-Literary Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 682</td>
<td>Recent Literary Criticism</td>
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American Literature:

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<td>American Literature To 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 647</td>
<td>American Literature 1865-1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 648</td>
<td>Am Literature 1915-Present</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 741</td>
<td>Seminar:American Studies</td>
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British Literature:

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<td>ENGL 624</td>
<td>Old English 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Medieval Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 663</td>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
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<td>ENGL 664</td>
<td>Renaissance Literature</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 666</td>
<td>Restoration &amp; 18th Century Lit</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>Romantic Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 669</td>
<td>Victorian Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 671</td>
<td>20th Century British Lit</td>
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<td>ENGL 761</td>
<td>Seminar Medieval Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 764</td>
<td>Sem:Renaissance Stdys 1500-1660</td>
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<td>ENGL 766</td>
<td>Sem:Restoration/18 Century Stdys</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 768</td>
<td>Sem:British Romanticism</td>
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<td>ENGL 769</td>
<td>Sem:Victorian Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 771</td>
<td>Sem:20th-Cent British Studies</td>
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Pre-1800 Literature:

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 624</td>
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<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Medieval Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 664</td>
<td>Renaissance Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 666</td>
<td>Restoration &amp; 18th Century Lit</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 693</td>
<td>SPTP:American Film Melodrama</td>
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<td>ENGL 761</td>
<td>Seminar Medieval Studies</td>
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<td>ENGL 764</td>
<td>Sem:Renaissance Stdys 1500-1660</td>
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<td>ENGL 766</td>
<td>Sem:Restoration/18 Century Stdys</td>
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Post 1800 Literature:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 647</td>
<td>American Literature 1865-1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 648</td>
<td>Am Literature 1915-Present</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ENGL 669  Victorian Literature
ENGL 671  20th Century British Lit
ENGL 769  Sem:Victorian Studies
ENGL 771  Sem:20th-Cent British Studies

| Electives | 6 |
| Seminar Requirement | 6 |
| Total Hours | 30 |

**Course Requirements**

M.A. candidates selecting the non-thesis option must successfully complete thirty hours of coursework in English, according to the following distribution and breadth requirements, and must fulfill the foreign language requirement. Students may take three hours of coursework in another department, subject to the approval of the Graduate Program Committee.

**Distribution Requirements**

- ENGL 609 (Required of all graduate teaching assistants in their first semester in residence; students who do not hold an assistantship will substitute three additional hours of elective.)
- Foundation course: either ENGL 680 or ENGL 682
- Electives: eighteen hours of 600-level courses or 700-level seminars in English (excluding ENGL 790) (A maximum of three hours of Independent Study [ENGL 695 or ENGL 795] may be counted toward the elective hours.)
- Seminars: six hours of 700-level seminars (excluding ENGL 790 Teaching Practicum)

**Breadth Requirements**

At least one course from among the electives and seminars must be substantially devoted to pre-1800 texts; at least one must be substantially devoted to post-1800 texts. At least one course must be in American literature; at least one must be in British literature.

**Thesis Option**

**Course Requirements**

M.A. candidates selecting the thesis option must successfully complete thirty hours of coursework in English, according to the following distribution and breadth requirements, and must fulfill the foreign language requirement. Students may take three hours of coursework in other departments subject to the approval of Graduate Program Committee.

**Distribution Requirements**

- ENGL 609 (Required of all graduate teaching assistants in their first semester in residence; students who do not hold an assistantship will substitute three additional hours of elective.)
- Foundation course: either ENGL 680 or ENGL 682
- Electives: twelve hours of 600-level courses or 700-level seminars in English (excluding ENGL 790) (A maximum of three hours of Independent Study [ENGL 695 or ENGL 795] may be counted toward the elective hours.)
- Seminars: six hours of 700-level seminars (excluding ENGL 790)
- Thesis: six hours of ENGL 698 Thesis

**Breadth Requirements**

At least one course from among the electives and seminars must be substantially devoted to pre-1800 texts; at least one must be substantially devoted to post-1800 texts. At least one course must be in American literature; at least one must be in British literature.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

The foreign language requirement for the M.A. is satisfied by successfully completing (receiving an A or B in the last course) a second-year level of foreign language study at an accredited college or university (or its international equivalent) within the last five years or by passing (with a B or better) the examination administered by the Department of Foreign Languages for “credit by exam” for the fourth semester course of a language sequence. Exams are available in French, German, Spanish, or Latin.

**Master of Arts in Professional Writing and Editing**

| ENGL 601  | Studies-Composition/Rhetoric | 3 |
| ENGL 602  | Editing                      | 3 |
| ENGL 605  | Professional Writing Theory  | 3 |
| ENGL 609  | College Composition Pedagogy | 3 |
| Internship or Thesis Option: | 3-6 |
| ENGL 610  | Professional Writing Intrmshp | |
Course requirements
The M.A. in PWE requires thirty hours of coursework distributed in four areas: foundations of professional writing and editing (nine hours), electives in professional writing and editing (six hours), general distribution (nine–twelve hours), and practical experience (three–six hours). Students must work with an advisor to file an approved plan of study by the end of their first semester of study. Students may choose either the thesis or the non-thesis option (see below under Practical Experience).

Foundations of Professional Writing and Editing
The following three classes are required of every student: ENGL 601, ENGL 602, and ENGL 605.

Professional Writing and Editing Electives
In consultation with the advisor, students will individualize their plan of study by choosing two 600-level courses that develop a specific focus within the general field of professional writing and editing.

General Distribution
Students must complete nine–twelve hours of general English studies. Courses will include literature, writing, and/or linguistics courses offered by the Department of English and chosen in consultation with the advisor. General distribution hours may often include requirements dictated by graduate teaching status, prior coursework, and departmental guidelines. Students may not use the same course(s) to fulfill the general distribution and professional writing electives requirements.

Practical Experience
Students must choose one of the following two summative experiences: ENGL 610 (three hours) or ENGL 698 (three hours). The directed study option is a workplace internship. The thesis option is recommended for students who anticipate advanced study at the doctoral level.

Language Requirement
The M.A. in PWE requires that students demonstrate proficiency in foreign language, statistics, or computer programming in one of following ways:

- Completing a 204 (Intermediate II) or 200 (Intensive Intermediate) language course in a modern foreign language with a grade of B or above or completion of the Graduate Student Foreign Language Exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
- Earning a B or above in the second-year level of foreign language study at an accredited college or university (or its international equivalent) within the last five years
- Participating in a University-approved study abroad program of four or more weeks in a non-English-speaking host country will also fulfill the language requirement if, as part of the experience, students are required to study the language and culture of the host country. As part of the study abroad program, students must enroll in at least one three-credit-hour course and earn a grade of B or above.
- Completing STAT 201 Applied Statistical Modeling with a grade of B or above
- Completing CS 110 Introduction-Computer Science and its accompanying one credit hour lab with a grade of B or above

A student should state in the plan of study the means by which he or she plans to satisfy the language requirement. Graduate students who take undergraduate courses at WVU should note that course grades will be calculated into their GPA.

Master of Fine Arts

Creative Writing Workshops:

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 618</td>
<td>Grad Writing Workshop: Poetry</td>
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<td>ENGL 618A</td>
<td>Grad Writing Wksp:Fiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 618B</td>
<td>Grad Writing Wksp:Non-Fiction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 609</td>
<td>College Composition Pedagogy</td>
<td>3</td>
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Non Creative Writing English Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

Course Requirements and Thesis
M.F.A. students must successfully complete forty-five hours, distributed as follows: fifteen hours of creative writing workshops (including one workshop in another genre, twelve hours of graduate-level English courses (non-creative writing), three hours of writing pedagogy, nine thesis hours, and six hours to be determined in consultation with the creative writing faculty. Only classes passed with a grade of B or better count toward the degree. The student is
required to submit a book-length manuscript (ideally forty-eight pages in poetry, 150 pages in fiction or nonfiction) suitable for publication on its own, that has been approved by a thesis advisor and two additional thesis committee members. Final approval is granted following an oral defense of the thesis. The core of the program is the workshop, where students submit their own writing for discussion and critique. This writing will make up the bulk of the thesis, which will be completed under the close supervision of the thesis advisor and two additional thesis committee members. The non-creative writing courses will be the same as those taken by Ph.D. and M.A. students. There is no foreign language requirement.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Coursework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 782</td>
<td>Current Directions-Lit Study</td>
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<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 790</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 798</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>39-45</td>
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**Course Requirements and Examinations**

During the first year in residence, students must enroll in ENGL 799 and pass the preliminary qualifying examination. Thirty hours of coursework must be taken prior to the examination for formal admission to candidacy. Of these thirty hours, nine hours must be in 700-level seminars, one of which must be ENGL 782. All doctoral candidates must take ENGL 680 and ENGL 609 unless they have previously taken equivalent courses. A maximum of six hours of ENGL 695 or ENGL 795 can be counted toward the thirty hours of coursework. Students are required to teach one three-hour composition course and one three-hour literature course while in residence and to register concurrently for ENGL 790; this requirement may be waived pending departmental approval for candidates who have substantial prior teaching experience. ENGL 790 does not count toward the thirty required hours of coursework. Students may take up to twelve hours of coursework in another department, subject to the approval of the Graduate Program Committee.

**Language Requirement**

The foreign language requirement is the same as for the M.A. program and must be completed prior to taking the examination for formal admission to candidacy.

**Doctoral Dissertation**

After completing coursework, passing the examination for formal admission to candidacy, and fulfilling the language and teaching requirements, the student, under the direction of the dissertation committee chairperson, writes a prospectus of the final project. The prospectus must be approved by the dissertation committee. The dissertation, meant to be an original contribution to scholarship in its field, should be able to be completed in one year. The final examination (oral defense of the dissertation) is open to the public.