Degrees Offered

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

Nature of the Program

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.
Publications

*Calliope*, a publication of WVU student writing, is sponsored by the Department of English and the English Honorary and Club.

*Cheat River Review* ([http://cheatriverreview.com/](http://cheatriverreview.com/)), is a literary magazine edited by MFA students and the Council of Writers of the West Virginia University MFA program.

*Resilience* is a digital, peer-reviewed journal of the Environmental Humanities. It provides a forum for scholars from across the humanities disciplines to speak to one another about their shared interest in environmental issues, and to plot out an evolving conversation about what the humanities contributes to living and thinking sustainably in a world of dwindling resources.

*Victorian Poetry*, a critical journal of Victorian literature, is edited by the Department of English. The journal was established at WVU in 1963 and has become internationally known, with subscribers in 27 countries.

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**FACULTY**

**CHAIR**

• Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)

**ASSOCIATE CHAIR**

• Gwen Bergner - Ph.D. (Princeton University)

**M.A. & PH.D. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**

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

**M.F.A. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**

• Glenn Taylor - M.F.A. (Texas State University)

**M.A. P.W.E. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**

• Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)

**PROFESSORS**

• Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)
  Technical and professional communication, Rhetoric

• 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

• 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

• Stephanie Foote - Ph.D. (University of Buffalo)
  Jackson and Nichols Professor of English, Gender and women's studies, Critical theory

• Marilyn Francus - Ph.D. (Columbia University)
  Restoration and 18th-century Literature and Culture, Women's Studies

• Kirk Hazen - Ph.D. (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)
  Linguistics, Sociolinguistics

• John Lamb - Ph.D. (New York University)
  Victorian Literature, 19th-century historiography

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

• 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

- Gwen Bergner - Ph.D. (Princeton University)
  African-American and Multi-ethnic Literatures, Post-colonial Studies
- 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
- 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, Medical rhetoric
- Rosemary Hathaway - Ph.D. (Ohio State University)
  Folklore, English Education, 20th-century American Literature
- Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)
  Romanticism and 18th-century British Literature
- Nathalie Singh-Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
  Writing Center Theory and Practice, Writing Assessment
- Thomas Sura - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Composition and Rhetoric, Writing Program Administration
- Glenn Taylor - M.F.A. (Texas State University)
  Creative Writing: Fiction
- Lisa Weihman - Ph.D. (New York University)
  19th and 20th-century British and Irish Literature and Culture

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Rose Casey - Ph.D. (Cornell University)
  Modern British Literature
- Christine Hoffmann - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)
  Early Modern British Studies
- Christa Parravani - M.F.A. (Rutgers University)
  Creative Writing: Non-fiction
- Anthony Swofford - M.F.A. (University of Iowa)
  Creative Writing: Non-fiction
- Johanna Winant - Ph.D. (University of Chicago)
  Modern American poetry and poetics

TEACHING ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Amy Alvarez - M.F.A. (University of Southern Maine)
  Poetry
- Nancy Caronia - Ph.D. (University of Rhode Island)
  Contemporary British and American literature
- Sarah Morris - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  human science phenomenology, embodiment, writing process, and student-centered teaching
- Douglas Phillips - Ph.D. (Carnegie Mellon University)
  Professional and technical writing

INSTRUCTORS

- Jill Woods - M.A. (Eastern Michigan University)
  Business and technical writing

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Gail Galloway Adams
- Dennis Allen
- Rudolph Almasy
- Patrick Conner
- Ellesa High
Admissions

MA IN ENGLISH

In addition to the university admission requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext), prospective candidates for the degree of master of arts 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

In addition to the university admission requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext), 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

In addition to the university admission requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext), 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

In addition to the university admission requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext), 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

ENGLISH

Degree Requirements

• Credit Hours: Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours in English (ENGL) at the 500 level or above.

• Grade Point Average: Students must earn a minimum of 2.75 overall GPA and a minimum grade of B in any course that is applied to the required 30 graduate credit hours.

• Graduation Requirements: Students have the option of completing the M.A. through either (1) 30 credits of coursework, or (2) M.A. thesis. The M.A. thesis must be defended satisfactorily before the student’s thesis committee.

• Progress toward Completion: Students should complete the M.A. within two academic years, including summer semesters.

• Additional Requirements:
  • Breadth Requirement: At least one course must be taken in each of the following areas: American Literature, British Literature, pre-1800 literature, post-1800 literature. Some overlap is permitted at the discretion of the program supervisor.
• Foreign-Language Requirement: Students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language in one of the following ways:
  (1) successfully completing the fourth semester of a foreign language at the university level, with a minimum grade of B. The course must have been completed within the past five years.
  (2) passing a graduate translation examination administered by the WVU Department of World Languages.

### Curriculum Requirements

**Core Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 609</td>
<td>College Composition Pedagogy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 680</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 682</td>
<td>Recent Literary Criticism</td>
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**Seminars:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 701</td>
<td>Seminar in Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 741</td>
<td>Seminar in American Studies</td>
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<td>ENGL 768</td>
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<td>ENGL 771</td>
<td>Seminar in Twentieth-Century British Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 782</td>
<td>Current Directions in Literary Study</td>
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**Electives:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any ENGL course at the 500 level or above</td>
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</table>

**Breadth Requirement:**

**AMERICAN LITERATURE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 646</td>
<td>American Literature to 1865</td>
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<td>ENGL 647</td>
<td>American Literature, 1865-1915</td>
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<td>ENGL 648</td>
<td>American Literature, 1915-Present</td>
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<td>ENGL 741</td>
<td>Seminar in American Studies</td>
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**BRITISH LITERATURE:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Medieval Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 663</td>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 664</td>
<td>Renaissance Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 666</td>
<td>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 668</td>
<td>Romantic Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 669</td>
<td>Victorian Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL 671</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century British Literature</td>
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**PRE-1800-LITERATURE:**

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 663</td>
<td>Shakespeare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Medieval Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature</td>
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**POST-1800 LITERATURE:**

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<td>ENGL 648</td>
<td>American Literature, 1915-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 669</td>
<td>Victorian Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGL 671  Twentieth-Century British Literature
ENGL 771  Seminar in Twentieth-Century British Studies

**COMPLETION REQUIREMENT:** 6

Select one option

**Thesis option:**

ENGL 698  Thesis or Dissertation

**Coursework option:**

2 additional ENGL courses at the 500 level or above

**Total Hours** 30

* Students must take ENGL 609 in their first semester of teaching.
** ENGL 790, ENGL 798 and ENGL 799 may not be used as Electives or for any other requirement.
*** Each of the four parts of the Breadth Requirement must be satisfied. Courses used for the Elective and Seminar requirements may also be used for the Breadth Requirement. A single course may be used for more than one part of the Breadth Requirement, but cannot receive credit more than once. With the permission of the program director, certain courses other than those listed may be used for the Breadth Requirement.

**Master of Arts**

**PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING**

**Degree Requirements**

- **Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in English at the graduate level.

- **Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.75, and a 3.0 GPA in coursework applied to their graduate program.

- **Graduation Requirement:** Students must complete coursework and practical experience.
  - **Professional Writing and Editing Electives:** In consultation with the advisor, students will individualize their plan of study by choosing two 500 or 600-level courses that develop a specific focus within the general field of professional writing and editing. Students must work with an advisor to file an approved plan of study by the end of their first semester.
  - **General Distribution English Coursework:** In addition to specific required English courses, students must complete a minimum of nine credits in general English studies. Courses may include literature, writing, and/or linguistics courses offered by the Department of English and are 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 the professional writing electives requirements.
  - **Practical Experience:** Students typically complete a workplace internship while enrolling in ENGL 610 (http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=ENGL%20610/) (three hours). With approval from the program a thesis option can substitute for the internship.

- **Benchmarks:** PWE students typically complete an internship in their final semester of the program. At a minimum, students must first complete at least 12 credit hours of coursework before pursuing the internship option. Students pursuing the thesis option should work with their advisor to approve a research topic. To complete the thesis option, students typically register for a section of English 698 in their last two semesters in the program.

- **Additional Requirements:** A student should state in the plan of study the means by which he or she plans to satisfy the language requirement. The M.A. in PWE requires that students demonstrate proficiency in foreign language, statistics, or computer programming, in one of following ways:
  - 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
  - Passing the Graduate Student Foreign Language Exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
  - 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 111 or STAT 211 with a grade of B or above
  - Completing CS 110 (http://catalog.wvu.edu/search/?P=CS%20110/) Introduction to Computer Science and its accompanying one credit hour lab with a grade of B or above

**Curriculum Requirements**

**Professional Writing and Editing Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 601</td>
<td>Studies in Composition and Rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 602</td>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGL 605 Professional Writing Theory 3
ENGL 609 College Composition Pedagogy * 3

** Internship: **
ENGL 610 Professional Writing Internship 3

Professional Writing and Editing 500 or 600-level electives and General Distribution English Coursework 15
Select two PWE 500 or 600 level electives and three graduate level English courses in consultation with advisor ***

Total Hours 30

* Students who do not hold an assistantship will substitute three additional hours of electives.

** With program approval, a thesis option can be substituted for the internship.

*** Excludes 698, 790, 798, and 799.

** Master of Fine Arts **

** Degree Requirements **

• ** Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours in English at the 500 or 600 or 700 level.

• ** Grade Point Average:** students must earn a 2.75 overall GPA and a 3.0 in all coursework counted toward the MFA requirements. Students must also earn a minimum grade of B- is required in all courses applied toward degree.

• ** Graduation Requirement:** Students have the option of either taking a comprehensive examination or completing a thesis
  • ** Master’s Thesis:** A book-length manuscript (ideally 48 pages in poetry, 150 pages in fiction or nonfiction) suitable for publication on its own.

• ** Benchmarks:** Students will work with faculty to develop a progress-toward-degree plan. In the third year, students must follow submission timelines for application for graduation and Thesis Defense Declaration form. In addition, they must be aware of ETD guidelines and generally work with their thesis advisor and committee members to insure ample time for reading the manuscript before defense date.

** Curriculum Requirements **

Creative Writing Workshops *

ENGL 618 Graduate Writing Workshop: Poetry
ENGL 618A Graduate Writing Workshop: Fiction
ENGL 618B Graduate Writing Workshop: Non-Fiction

Pedagogy Requirement
ENGL 609 College Composition Pedagogy
ENGL 688 Creative Writing Mentoring

Non Creative Writing English Courses **
Any ENGL course at the 500, 600, or 700 level

Thesis
ENGL 698 Thesis or Dissertation

Electives ***
Any ENGL course at the 500, 600, or 700 level

Total Hours 45

* Students must complete fifteen hours of creative writing workshops with three hours outside of the student’s primary genre.

** Except ENGL 611, ENGL 618, or ENGL 618A, or ENGL 618B, or ENGL 688, or ENGL 689, or ENGL 698, or ENGL 790.

*** Except ENGL 689, or ENGL 698, or ENGL 790.

** Doctor of Philosophy **

• ** Credit Hours:** Students are required to complete a minimum of 72 graduate credit hours in English at the 500 level or above. A student entering the Ph.D. program with an M.A. degree already in hand may request that up to 30 hours of coursework be applied toward the doctoral coursework. The final decision is at the discretion of the program director.

• ** Grade Point Average:** Students must earn a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall and 3.00 in all ENGL courses applied to the major. A minimum grade of B- is required in any course that is to be applied to major requirements.

• ** Graduation Requirements:** Students earn the Ph.D. by satisfactorily completing all of the following:
• required coursework;
• a portfolio of academic work;
• the foreign-language requirement;
• the Examination for Formal Admission to Candidacy; and
• the prospectus, full text and defense of the doctoral dissertation.

• **Foreign-Language Requirement**: Students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language in one of the following ways:
  • successfully completing (no more than five years prior to matriculation) the fourth semester of a foreign language at the university level, with a minimum grade of B-; or
  • passing a graduate translation examination administered by the WVU Department of World Languages.

• **Examination**: The Examination for Formal Admission to Candidacy ("Booklist Exam") is administered by the student's Ph.D. committee at the conclusion of regular coursework.

• **Dissertation**: Passage of the Booklist Exam is followed by the dissertation phase, all portions of which require approval by the student's Ph.D. committee. It consists of:
  • a prospectus (approx. 10 pp.) for the dissertation, with a provisional bibliography;
  • the dissertation itself, designed to be an original contribution to the scholarship in its field; and
  • a two-hour oral defense of the completed dissertation. For the student to pass the dissertation defense, no more than one member of the committee may dissent.

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Core Courses**

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<td>Introduction to Literary Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 682</td>
<td>Recent Literary Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 782</td>
<td>Current Directions in Literary Study</td>
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**Seminars**

Select from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 701</td>
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<td>ENGL 782</td>
<td>Current Directions in Literary Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**: 30

Any ENGL course at the 500 level or above not used for Core or Seminar requirements

**Teaching Practicum**: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 790</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dissertation**: 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 798</td>
<td>Thesis or Dissertation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 72

* ENGL 609 should be taken in the student's first semester of teaching. At the discretion of the program director, a student who has completed the equivalent of ENGL 609 elsewhere may substitute a different 3-credit ENGL course at the 500 level or above.

** At the discretion of the program director, a student who has completed the equivalent of ENGL 680 and/or ENGL 682 elsewhere may substitute different 3-credit ENGL courses at the 500 level or above.

*** ENGL 782 is a required core course, but it may be repeated in a subsequent semester toward the seminar requirement.

**** Excluding ENGL 790, 798, and 799

**Degree Progress**

**M.A.**

Graduation Requirements: Students have the option of completing the M.A. through either (1) 30 credits of coursework, or (2) 24 credits of coursework plus M.A. thesis. The optional M.A. thesis is a work of scholarship in the form of an extended research paper (usually 50-75 pages). The thesis is directed by a regular member of the graduate faculty and two additional committee members. It is recommended that one member be from outside of the
Department of English. Students must satisfactorily defend their completed projects before their committees and anyone else who wishes to attend. All theses must be filed electronically.

M.A. students must also demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language in one of the following ways:

- successfully completing the fourth semester of a foreign language at the university level, with a minimum grade of B, within the past five years; or
- passing a graduate translation examination administered by the WVU Department of World Languages.

**M.A. IN PWE**

Graduation Requirement: Students have the option of completing the M.A. in Professional Writing and Editing through either (1) completing a graduate level internship, or (2) researching, writing, and defending a thesis.

Internship (3 hours): Students who choose the internship option will work for a local or regional company, program, or organization for 8-10 hours a week for 12-15 weeks. Students will engage in a variety of supervised writing tasks, including research, editing, proofreading, project management, and content development. At the end of the internship period, students will submit a portfolio to the Professional Writing Coordinator that documents and reflects on their internship experience.

Critical Thesis (3-6 hours): The M.A. thesis is a work of scholarship in the form of an extended research paper (usually 50-75 pages) on a topic in the field. The thesis is directed by a regular member of the graduate faculty and two additional committee members. Students must satisfactorily defend their completed projects before their committees and anyone else who wishes to attend. All theses must be filed electronically.

**M.F.A.**

Students will work with faculty to develop a progress-toward-degree plan. In the third year, students must follow submission timelines for application for graduation and Thesis Defense Declaration form. In addition, they must be aware of ETD guidelines and generally work with their thesis advisor and committee members to insure ample time for reading the manuscript before the defense date.

**PH.D.**

Graduation Requirements: Students earn the Ph.D. by satisfactorily completing all of the following:

1. required coursework;
2. a portfolio of academic work;
3. the foreign-language requirement;
4. the Examination for Formal Admission to Candidacy; and
5. a prospectus, full text and defense of the doctoral dissertation.

**Coursework:** For students who enter the program with an M.A. already in hand, up to 30 hours may be waived at the discretion of the M.A./Ph.D. Program Supervisor.

**Portfolio:** By September 1 of the second year past the completion of 30 credit hours, each student will submit a portfolio consisting of:

- a research paper (approximately 20 pages) of his/her choosing, most likely stemming from a first-year course;
- a self-evaluation of his/her coursework, research, writing, teaching, and department participation; and
- a plan of study, including possible dissertation field and list of primary courses.

A three-member committee, constituted in advance from the English graduate faculty, will evaluate all portfolios. A portfolio deemed unsatisfactory must be resubmitted in January of the same academic year.

**Foreign-Language Requirement:** Students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language in one of the following ways:

- successfully completing the fourth semester of a foreign language at the university level, with a minimum grade of B, within the past five years; or
- passing a graduate translation examination administered by the WVU Department of World Languages.

**Examination:** At the beginning of preparations for the Examination for Formal Admission to Candidacy ("Booklist Exam"), the student must constitute a Ph.D. committee. The committee is consists of a chair (a regular member of the Department of English graduate faculty), two additional members from the English faculty, and one member external to the English faculty. The examination is designed to have the student gain more detailed familiarity with his/her field and to refine an original topic for the dissertation. The student compiles a list of 75-100 core texts, writes a brief preface, then sits for a two-hour oral examination with the committee.
Dissertation: Passage of the Booklist Exam is followed by the writing and committee approval of the dissertation prospectus, then the writing of the dissertation. The dissertation is intended to be an original contribution to the scholarship in its field. A two-hour oral defense of the completed dissertation is required. For the student to pass the dissertation defense, no more than one member of the committee may dissent. All dissertations must be filed electronically.

Summary: The portfolio of academic work must be submitted in September of the second year past completion of 30 hours of coursework; and resubmitted, if applicable, in January of the same academic year. Preparations for the Booklist Exam may begin once all but three credits of coursework are complete. All degree requirements, including the dissertation defense, must be completed within five years of the student’s passing the Booklist Exam. For more details, please consult the Graduate Handbook on the English Department website.

Major Learning Outcomes

ENGLISH

PhD in Literature

The doctoral program in English 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 course work, 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.

MA in Literature

The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in English is 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 two-year 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 provide training in pedagogy.

MA in Professional Writing and Editing

The learning outcomes for the M.A. in PWE reflect the program’s mixture of theory and practice:

1. Recognize and evaluate a variety of ethical, social, legal, and political values intertwined in the production and consumption of technical communications.
2. Analyze the uses and applications of new communication technologies.
3. Acquire historical and critical understanding of rhetorical theories and practices.
4. Master a variety of research and analytical methods, especially as these apply to the study and practical application of oral, written, and visual communication in professional contexts.
5. Acquire a practical and theoretical understanding of workplace dynamics including client relations and project management skills.

MFA in Creative Writing

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing emphasizes the following as goals and outcomes for students graduating from the program:

1. The mastery of a specific literary tradition relevant to the student’s genre and craft;
2. The mastery of the revision process;
3. The clear articulation of aesthetic principles;
4. A solid familiarity with genres other than the student’s principal genre;
5. A firm understanding of the writing profession.