

M.A. in English Literature and M.A. in English Literature with an Emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition

Description of the Programs

Master of Arts in English

The program leading to the Master of Arts Degree in English is a 30-semester-unit curriculum. Opportunities for emphasis in British literature, American literature, rhetoric and composition, and Teaching English as a Second Language exist in a flexible curriculum.

The Master of Arts in English prepares students for doctoral degrees or for community college teaching positions. The concentration in rhetoric and composition specifically prepares students to teach composition at the community college level; it also improves the instructional skills of in-service teachers of English in the secondary schools. Many students have discovered that work on both the undergraduate and graduate levels has provided them with the skills that enable them to succeed in business, industry, and the professions.

Within the graduate program leading to the Master of Arts, students may choose to complete a concentration in either the Teaching of English as a Second Language (TESL) or Rhetoric and Composition. Graduate students also may elect to do all of their work in the study of literature. The program is designed carefully to offer both breadth and depth and will give students a solid understanding of their discipline.

Literature Option (30 units)

The Master of Arts in English is a degree in literature, the heart of the discipline. The program provides for both breadth and depth in the study of literature.

Students may choose to do all of their work in literature or may elect an emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition.

Course Requirements

A. Prerequisites (for students who enter without a degree in English Literature). Please consult with the Graduate Coordinator to determine which of these courses you will need to take. Please note that these are all upper division courses, so community college coursework cannot be used to fulfill the prerequisite requirements.

Students entering with a B.A. in English Literature do NOT have to take these prerequisites, since it is assumed that you took equivalent coursework in your program.

1. ENG 307 Practice in Literary Criticism (3)

2. Select one Seminar in Literature or any single-author course (3)

ENG 465 Chaucer

ENG 467 Shakespeare (recommended)

ENG 476 Individual Authors and Topics Pre-1700

ENG 477 Individual Authors and Topics Post-1700

ENG 490 Seminar in Literature

3. Select three courses from the following:

ENG 302 English Literature to 1642

ENG 303 English Literature: 1642-1832

ENG 304 English Literature: 1832-Present

ENG 340 American Literature to 1865

ENG 341 American Literature: 1865-Present

Graduate Level Course Requirements (30 units)

B. Required Courses (6 units):

ENG 501 Advanced Studies in Literature

ENG 545 Literary Criticism

C. Select one course from the following (3 units):

ENG 530 Seminar: Studies in Medieval Literature

ENG 535 Seminar: Studies in Renaissance Literature

D. Select one course from the following (3 units):

- ENG 540 Seminar: Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature (1660-1798)
ENG 543 Seminar: Studies in Romantic Literature (1798-1832)
ENG 546 Seminar: Studies in Victorian Literature (1832-1901)
ENG 552 Seminar: Studies in American Literature to 1900

E. Select one course from the following (3 units):

- ENG 549 Seminar: Studies in Modern British Literature
ENG 555 Seminar: Studies in American Literature after 1900

F. Select five additional courses in English (15 units).

G. Comprehensive Examination or Thesis.

Literature Option with Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis

The emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition is a specially designed program for students who plan to teach writing at the secondary or community college level. Students may be offered the opportunity to gain practical experience by working as tutors in the writing program. Students who choose this emphasis are required to take the "Required Courses" listed below to satisfy Section F in the Literature Option.

A. Required Courses (15 units):

- ENG 570 Seminar in Writing
ENG 571 Discourse Analysis
ENG 575 Teaching Of Composition
ENG 576 History and Theories of Rhetoric
ENG 577 Current Issues in Rhetoric and Composition

Culminating Experience

Students may either write a thesis or take comprehensive exams.

To write a thesis, students must have a minimum 3.75 GPA or permission of the thesis director and the graduate coordinator. Information on theses can be found on the Graduate Studies Website: <https://www.csudh.edu/gsr/graduate-studies/thesis/>

The comprehensive exams are offered each November and April.

Program Requirements (as stated in the university catalog)

A. Prerequisites and Admission to Classified Standing

1. Graduate standing or permission of the instructor are prerequisites to enrollment in graduate English classes.
2. For admission to classified standing, students must have completed nine units of graduate English (500-level) courses at CSU Dominguez Hills with an average of "B" or better.
3. For advancement to candidacy, students must have attained classified standing and have completed nine additional graduate units in English with an average of "B" or better, in addition to completing the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement.

B. Graduation Requirements

1. Each student's program must be approved by the graduate coordinator. No more than nine units selected from upper division undergraduate offerings in English may count toward the master's degree in English.
2. Graduate students must satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement.
3. In addition to successful completion of required coursework, all candidates must achieve a passing score on a Comprehensive Examination. Literature and Literature & Rhetoric/Composition candidates who have earned a 3.75 GPA, or who have an ongoing project warranting special permission from the graduate coordinator and the thesis director, may elect to undertake a Thesis, provided that they can form a thesis committee with the relevant specialization and have their proposal approved by the graduate committee.
4. Students must complete all requirements for the M.A. within seven years.
5. In addition to the major requirements, students must meet all university requirements for the master's degree. Students should consult the section of the catalog entitled "Requirements for the Master's Degree."
6. A reading knowledge of at least one foreign language is a valuable research and teaching tool. While a formal foreign language requirement is not part of this program, those planning to pursue a Ph.D. in English should prepare themselves to meet the doctoral requirement calling for reading ability in two foreign languages.