MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

The Master of Arts in English is designed to prepare students for doctoral work, improve the professional competence of public school teachers, ready promising scholars for college teaching, advance the skills of creative and professional writers, and train students whose careers require advanced verbal and analytical abilities.

Students seeking admission to the Master of Arts in English program must supply the following materials directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Graduate Application (http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html)
2. Application fee (http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html)
3. Official transcripts of all college-level work, including one that shows conferral of the undergraduate degree (Note: The student must have completed at least twelve hours of upper-division English courses with a 3.0 GPA or better; students with credentials from foreign universities must have their transcripts reviewed by a transcript evaluation service.)
4. Official scores for the GRE General Test (Note: The subject test in English is not required.)
5. Three letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's potential for success in an English graduate program
6. A scholarly/critical writing sample of a minimum of ten pages (Note: Students wishing to pursue a creative writing emphasis may submit a creative portfolio as a supplement to the scholarly/critical writing sample.)
7. International applicants ONLY: Official TOEFL scores

The English MA Program welcomes qualified international applicants; however, an individual who does not hold American citizenship must be accepted in regular admission status, without qualifications.

A holistic review of each applicant’s file will be completed, and admission will be granted on a competitive basis.

- To earn the MA in English, students must complete a minimum of thirty-six hours of graduate credit in accordance with one of three degree plans.
- All students working under Plan 1 and Plan 2 must take at least one course from each of five blocks; included among the total classes must be at least one course each in British and American literature. Students working under Plan 3 must take at least one course in Block 1 and at least one course from three of the remaining blocks.
- All MA students are required to take ENGL 5330 at the first opportunity.
- Before beginning work on a thesis, sitting for comprehensive examinations, undertaking a directed study, taking an undergraduate course for graduate credit, or transferring in graduate credits from another institution, the student must have completed at least twelve hours of graduate English coursework, including ENGL 5330, in good standing.
- Thesis students complete a two-semester thesis sequence (ENGL 6098 and ENGL 6099).
- All MA students must pass the English graduate program’s written comprehensive examination (offered in October, February, and June of each year) and an oral defense of a designated portion of their graduate work; the oral defense covers either the areas chosen for the written examination or, in the case of thesis students, the thesis. Students must be enrolled in the University for the terms in which they sit for the written comprehensive and oral examinations.
- A student may take ENGL 5339 twice, with approval of the Department Chair. A student may take one 4000-level English course for graduate credit, with approval of the Department Chair and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. See the Graduate English Handbook for guidelines and restrictions.

English Course Blocks

The English graduate curriculum is organized into five blocks, each comprising courses with shared topics or historical kinship.

- Block 1: English Language, Early and Middle English Literature
- Block 2: Theory, Pedagogy, and Writing Disciplines
- Block 3: Early Literature
- Block 4: 19th-Century British and American Literature
- Block 5: 20th- and 21st-Century Literature in English

The student working under Plan 1 or Plan 2 takes at least one class from each block, as designated in the degree schedules for those plans below; the student working under Plan 3 takes at least one course in Block 1 and at least one course from three of the remaining blocks, as designated in the degree schedule for that plan below.

Students need not take the block classes in sequence.

With the approval of the Department Chair, a student may substitute up to six hours of the following special and variable topics courses for block requirements:
## Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5369</td>
<td>The Novel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5370</td>
<td>Multicultural Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5374</td>
<td>Women's Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5388</td>
<td>Major Figures in Amer Poetry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5391</td>
<td>Major Figures in Brit Poetry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6330</td>
<td>Special Topics in English</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The block requirement for which such a course may be substituted will be announced explicitly in the online course listings before registration and in the instructor’s syllabus.

A graduate student in English may pursue one of three degree plans. Plan 1 requires a thesis; Plans 2 and 3 do not require a thesis.

### Plan 1 – MA in English

This degree plan is designed for prospective community and senior college teachers; for students who plan to continue their studies at a doctoral level; and for teachers of high school English who wish to increase scope, depth, and expertise in their teaching specialties. There is no secondary field under Plan 1, and the student must write a thesis. Under this plan, students take thirty hours of coursework and six hours of thesis. Students may pursue a creative writing emphasis, which requires an internship with the Texas Review Press, two creative writing workshops, and a creative thesis.

### Master of Arts in English - Thesis

#### Specified Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5330</td>
<td>Graduate Research: Methods and Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Block 1

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5377</td>
<td>Early &amp; Middle English Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5383</td>
<td>English Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5389</td>
<td>Hist Dvpt Of English Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Block 2

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5331</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5332</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Poetry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5333</td>
<td>Practicum:Editing &amp; Publishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5334</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Nonfiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5335</td>
<td>Workshop In Teaching Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5336</td>
<td>Narrative Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5337</td>
<td>Poetic Theory and Prosody</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5367</td>
<td>Practicum In Teaching Coll Comp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5368</td>
<td>Literary Criticism And Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5384</td>
<td>Rhetoric &amp; Composition Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5390</td>
<td>Technical &amp; Prof. Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Block 3

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5372</td>
<td>Early American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5375</td>
<td>Restoration-18Th Cent Brit Lit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5376</td>
<td>The Classical Tradition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5378</td>
<td>Renaissance-17th Cent Brit Lit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Block 4

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5379</td>
<td>Romantic Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5380</td>
<td>Victorian Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5385</td>
<td>American Literature, 1800-1860</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5386</td>
<td>American Literature, 1860-1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Block 5

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5371</td>
<td>Modern World Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGL 5381  Eng Lit, 1900 to the Present  
ENGL 5387  American Lit, 1920-the Present  

Electives  
Select four of all graduate courses in English, excluding thesis courses  12  

Thesis  
ENGL 6098  Thesis I  3  
ENGL 6099  Thesis II  3  
Total Hours  36  

Plan 2 – MA in English (Non-thesis)  
This degree plan is designed for prospective community and senior college teachers; for students who plan to continue their studies at a doctoral level; and for teachers of high school English who wish to increase scope, depth, and expertise in their teaching specialties. There is no secondary field under Plan 2, and the student may not write a thesis. Under this plan, students take thirty-six hours of coursework.  

Master of Arts in English - Non-Thesis  
Specified Course  
ENGL 5330  Graduate Research: Methods and Theories  3  

Block 1  
Select one of the following:  3  
ENGL 5377  Early & Middle English Lit  
ENGL 5383  English Linguistics  
ENGL 5389  Hist Dvlpt Of English Language  

Block 2  
Select one of the following:  3  
ENGL 5331  Creative Writing: Fiction  
ENGL 5332  Creative Writing: Poetry  
ENGL 5333  Practicum:Editing & Publishing  
ENGL 5334  Creative Writing: Nonfiction  
ENGL 5335  Workshop In Teaching Writing  
ENGL 5336  Narrative Theory  
ENGL 5337  Poetic Theory and Prosody  
ENGL 5367  Practicum In Teaching Coll Comp  
ENGL 5368  Literary Criticism And Theory  
ENGL 5384  Rhetoric & Composition Theory  
ENGL 5390  Technical & Prof. Writing  

Block 3  
Select one of the following:  3  
ENGL 5372  Early American Literature  
ENGL 5375  Restoration-18Th Cent Brit Lit  
ENGL 5376  The Classical Tradition  
ENGL 5378  Renaissance-17th Cent Brit Lit  

Block 4  
Select one of the following:  3  
ENGL 5379  Romantic Literature  
ENGL 5380  Victorian Literature  
ENGL 5385  American Literature, 1800-1860  
ENGL 5386  American Literature, 1860-1920  

Block 5  
Select one of the following:  3  
ENGL 5371  Modern World Literature  
ENGL 5381  Eng Lit, 1900 to the Present  
ENGL 5387  American Lit, 1920-the Present  

Electives
Select six of all graduate courses in English, excluding thesis courses 18

Total Hours 36

**Plan 3 – MA in English (Non-thesis)**

Designed for teachers who need preparation in two teaching fields, this degree plan requires twenty-four semester hours of English and twelve hours in a second, approved field. The secondary field must logically support the major and must be chosen from departments offering graduate-level courses, such as History, Foreign Languages, or Political Science, or, in the case of public school teachers, from the College of Education.

**Master of Arts in English - Non-Thesis**

**Specified Course**
ENGL 5330  Graduate Research: Methods and Theories  3

**Block 1**
Select one of the following:  3
ENGL 5377  Early & Middle English Lit
ENGL 5383  English Linguistics
ENGL 5389  Hist Dvlpt Of English Language

**Restricted Electives**
Select 18 hours of the following:  18

Block 2:
ENGL 5331  Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 5332  Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGL 5333  Practicum: Editing & Publishing
ENGL 5334  Creative Writing: Nonfiction
ENGL 5335  Workshop In Teaching Writing
ENGL 5336  Narrative Theory
ENGL 5337  Poetic Theory and Prosody
ENGL 5367  Practicum In Teaching Coll Comp
ENGL 5368  Literary Criticism And Theory
ENGL 5384  Rhetoric & Composition Theory
ENGL 5390  Technical & Prof. Writing

Block 3:
ENGL 5372  Early American Literature
ENGL 5375  Restoration-18Th Cent Brit Lit
ENGL 5376  The Classical Tradition
ENGL 5378  Renaissance-17th Cent Brit Lit

Block 4:
ENGL 5379  Romantic Literature
ENGL 5380  Victorian Literature
ENGL 5385  American Literature, 1800-1860
ENGL 5386  American Literature, 1860-1920

Block 5:
ENGL 5371  Modern World Literature
ENGL 5381  Eng Lit, 1900 to the Present
ENGL 5387  American Lit, 1920-the Present

**Secondary Field**
Select four of any graduate courses in a field approved by Graduate Advisor  12

Total Hours 36

1 Courses must be selected from at least three different blocks.