English
Master of Arts

Through the work of research, service, and teaching, The Department of English is committed to the premise that language and literature reflect and shape the world in which we live. Faculty members conduct ongoing research in an array of sub-fields and interdisciplinary contexts and contribute to academic conversations occurring among humanities scholars on national and international levels. The nationally renowned Writers Conference brings great authors and opportunities for literary discussion to the larger community. Teaching at a wide range of levels, from first-year writers to Ph.D. students, the Department demonstrates the pleasures and value of a liberal arts education by emphasizing critical and creative thinking, by helping students think thoughtfully about cultural diversity, and by teaching strong written communication skills. In the Department of English, students at all levels of the curriculum are prepared for lives of public citizenship as they learn to analyze texts within complex cultural situations, to write and to think rhetorically, and to engage with diverse perspectives.

The Master of Arts in English stresses the acquisition of a broad foundation of discipline-specific knowledge and critical tools. To this end, the Department provides quality graduate instruction in literature in English, literary criticism and theory, the English language, composition and rhetoric studies, creative writing, cultural studies, and related fields. Successful M.A. students will be prepared, on the one hand, to pursue further graduate education in English, Law, or any other field that requires highly developed verbal, analytical, and rhetorical skills, and, on the other hand, to seek careers as writing teachers, creative writers, editors, or in a variety of other professions.

- Students will develop the critical skills and tools necessary to produce independent, analytical or creative work in English studies.
  - Students use analytical or creative techniques that are associated with current work in English studies.
  - Students situate their own written work within current debates in English studies.

- Students will use techniques—creative or critical—integral to the production of writing in English studies.
  - Students use the rhetorical conventions of English studies.
  - Students use revision to develop and refine their writing projects.

- Graduate Teaching Assistants will demonstrate the ability to teach college-level writing effectively.
  - Students develop a range of teaching strategies.
  - Students recognize the connections between particular teaching strategies and larger learning objectives.
  - Students situate their own teaching practices in the context of significant pedagogical debates.

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission must be completed by February 15 for full consideration and Teaching Assistantships. The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies’ current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

1. A four-year bachelor’s degree from a recognized college or university.
2. Twenty semester credits of English beyond the communication requirement with a 3.00 grade point average or better.
3. A writing sample of 10-15 pages on topics or in modes appropriate to the proposed program of study (submitted directly to the department). Applicants who plan to major in creative writing should also submit an analytical paper.
4. Graduate Record Examination General Test required. Literature in English Advanced Test is recommended.
5. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.
Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the English Language and Literature Department.

Thesis Option
1. A minimum of thirty credit hours are needed for the M.A., including the required courses listed below, the thesis (4 credits), and any Readings/Research courses (maximum 4 credits).
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. English 500; English 501 and 501L (for Graduate Teaching Assistants only); and either English 510 or 511. Courses must be completed with grades of A or B (S for 501L).
5. Up to 4 credits of Readings and Research courses (English 590 and 593) may be used to supplement the standard graduate offerings.
6. Evidence of the mastery of scholarly tools appropriate to the proposed field of studies is required, including proficiency in one language other than English.
7. Four credits are allowed for the thesis.
8. Required courses: Please refer to the academic catalog.

Non-Thesis Option
1. A minimum of thirty-two credit hours are needed for the M.A., including the required courses listed below, English 598 (Portfolio Workshop) and English 995 (Scholarly Project), and any Readings/Research courses (maximum 4 credits).
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. English 500; English 501 and 501L (for Graduate Teaching Assistants only); and either English 510 or 511. Courses must be completed with grades of A or B (S for 501L).
5. Up to 4 credits of Readings and Research courses (English 590 and 593) may be used to supplement the standard graduate offerings.
6. Evidence of the mastery of scholarly tools appropriate to the proposed field of studies is required, including proficiency in one language other than English.
7. The Critical Introductory Statement to the Portfolio will serve as the written comprehensive exam.
8. Required courses: Please refer to the academic catalog.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

Applicants are encouraged to browse the Department of English web site for listings of faculty and their areas of expertise.

Contact Information

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

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