

# ENGLISH, MA

The Department of English offers master's and doctoral degrees in several areas of specialization: Literature and Cultural Theory; Rhetoric and Composition; Creative Writing; Professional and Technical Writing; and Media, Cinema, and Digital Studies. Students apply for admission to a specific area or concentration, but are encouraged to take classes in others.

## Admission Requirements

### Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

### Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

1. Undergraduate major in English or related field, with appropriate background for proposed concentration of study: Plan A, broad background in English and American literature; Plan B, literature, linguistics, and/or composition; Plan C, literature and creative writing; Plan G, professional writing; Plan H, background in media studies, film studies, or digital and/or popular culture.
2. Undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale).
3. Three letters of recommendation to the Department's Director of Graduate Studies from persons familiar with applicant's academic ability and achievement.
4. A sample of academic writing.
5. For Plan C admission, an applicant must also submit samples of original fiction or poetry.

For more specific information about departmental requirements for admission and instructions for submitting, letters of recommendation, please visit the English Department's Graduate Admissions Web page.

## Credits and Courses

Students admitted to the master's program earn the degree by completing a minimum of 30 credits of graduate coursework in English, writing a final project, and passing an oral examination at the conclusion of their coursework.

Although students must enroll initially in one of the five plans of study described below, students who demonstrate a capacity for doctoral work, and wish to earn a PhD at UWM, are advised to proceed as rapidly as possible to the PhD program. Ordinarily students are not allowed to proceed beyond 30 credits without having been admitted to the doctoral program. No more than 27 credits earned at the master's level may be included in the 54 credits required for the PhD.

### Plan A (Literature and Cultural Theory)

A minimum of 30 credits, including:

Code	Title	Credits
ENGLISH 703	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Literature (must be taken in first semester)	1
ENGLISH 720	Modern Literary Theory	3
Select 9 credits in literature courses (at least 3 credits pre-1800)		9
Select 3 credits in 800-level seminar in literature or cultural theory		3
Select 6 credits in cultural theory		6
Select 8 credits of electives <sup>1</sup>		8
Total Credits		30

<sup>1</sup> Which may include up to 5 credits of ENGLISH 790.

### Additional Requirements

- A final project, which shall be a paper of at least 30 pages which grows out of and significantly expands some aspect of the student's literary studies.
- An oral examination, usually lasting an hour and a half, which covers the final project and a separate 30-book reading list.
- All credits must be 600-level or above, with no more than 6 credits at the 600 level. (ENGLISH 701 must be counted as an elective.)

### Plan B (Rhetoric and Professional Writing)

A minimum of 30 credits, including:

Code	Title	Credits
A minimum of 3 credits of ENGLISH 705 is required. <sup>1</sup>		3
ENGLISH 705	Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement Colloquium	
ENGLISH 712	Theories in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement	3
ENGLISH 713	Research Methods in Rhetorics, Literacies, and Community Engagement	3
ENGLISH 750	History of Rhetoric and Writing Studies	3
Select 18 credits of electives <sup>2</sup>		18
ENGLISH 427	Writing for Nonprofits	
ENGLISH 431G	Topics in Advanced Communications:	
ENGLISH 432	The Rhetoric of Argument	
ENGLISH 439	Information Design	
ENGLISH 443	Grant Writing	
ENGLISH 444	Technical Editing	
ENGLISH 633G	Seminar in Rhetoric and Professional Writing:	
ENGLISH 701	Writing Pedagogies	
ENGLISH 711	Topics in Public and Professional Writing:	
ENGLISH 749	Advanced Internship in Writing and Community Engagement	
ENGLISH 755	Issues in Writing Research	
ENGLISH 790	Master's Project <sup>3</sup>	
ENGLISH 854	Seminar in College Writing Pedagogy:	
ENGLISH 855	Seminar in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement:	
Total Credits		30

<sup>1</sup> ENGLISH 705 is a one credit course and must be taken 3 times to receive the 3 credits needed for degree.

<sup>2</sup> 9 of the 18 elective credits must be in the 700 and 800 level courses.

<sup>3</sup> Electives may include up to 6 credits of ENGLISH 790.

### Additional Requirements

- A final project, which shall be a research paper appropriate to the student's professional goals.
- An oral examination, usually lasting an hour and a half, which covers the final project and a reading list of at least 30 texts not listed in the project bibliography or works cited list.
- One course is strongly recommended in each of the following areas: Computers and Pedagogy (English at the 700 level); Research Methods

**Note:** Students who plan to apply to the PhD program are advised to select 6 credits in literature or language courses as part of their electives.

### Plan C (Creative Writing)

A minimum of 30 credits, including:

Code	Title	Credits
Select 6 credits in 600- or 700-level literature courses (at least 3 credits at the 700 level)		6
Select one of the following:		6
ENGLISH 715 & ENGLISH 815	Narrative Craft and Theory: and Seminar in Fiction Writing:	
ENGLISH 716 & ENGLISH 816	Poetic Craft and Theory: and Seminar in Poetry Writing:	
Select 6 credits in writing courses at the 600 or 700 level		6
Select 12 credits of electives <sup>1</sup>		12
Total Credits		30

<sup>1</sup> Which may include up to 6 credits of ENGLISH 790.

### Additional Requirements

- No more than 12 credits may be earned in 600-level courses.
- A final project, which shall be a collection of fiction and/or poetry, a novel, or other substantial work of imaginative writing.
- An oral examination, usually lasting an hour and a half, which covers the final project and a reading list of at least 30 texts representative of the student's literary background and interests.

### Plan G (Professional Writing)

A minimum of 30 credits, selected in consultation with the student's advisor, including:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
A minimum of 3 credits of ENGLISH 705 is required. <sup>1</sup>		3
ENGLISH 705	Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement Colloquium	
ENGLISH 712	Theories in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement	3
<b>800-Level Seminar in Professional Writing</b> <sup>2</sup>		
ENGLISH 855	Seminar in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement: (recommended)	3
<b>700-Level Professional Writing Practice or Pedagogy</b> <sup>3</sup>		
Select 12 credits of the following which are especially recommended: <sup>4</sup>		12

ENGLISH 431	Topics in Advanced Communications: (Subtitle)
ENGLISH 433	Creative Nonfiction for Publication
ENGLISH 434	Editing and Publishing
ENGLISH 439	Information Design
ENGLISH 443	Grant Writing
ENGLISH 444	Technical Editing
ENGLISH 701	Writing Pedagogies
ENGLISH 706	Seminar in Professional Writing Theory and Pedagogy
ENGLISH 707	Writing for Business Management
ENGLISH 708	Advanced Professional Writing
ENGLISH 709	Rhetoric, Writing, and Information Technology
ENGLISH 710	Advanced Project Management for Professional Writers
ENGLISH 711	Topics in Public and Professional Writing: (Subtitle)

### Internship or Elective

Select an Internship or 700-level elective in Professional Writing that could lead to a final project <sup>5</sup> 3

### Additional Requirements

Select 6 credits in consultation with the student's advisor 6

Total Credits 30

<sup>1</sup> ENGLISH 705 is a one credit course and must be taken 3 times to receive the 3 credits needed for degree.

<sup>2</sup> Or a related topic area approved by the advisor.

<sup>3</sup> Or at the 400 level with the approval of a Plan G faculty advisor.

<sup>4</sup> Students can take no more than 6 credits in any combination of 400-level U/G courses and interdisciplinary courses.

<sup>5</sup> Students should consult with their advisor about which option would best suit their background and career goals. In general, students with little workplace experience will take the internship and those with substantial workplace experience will take a 700-level elective.

**Note:** Students who elect to complete a workplace project should expect to prepare a 30-page report justifying the project development and decisions in relationship to the relevant scholarly literature and/or in terms of empirical methods or studies conducted by the student.

### Plan H (Media, Cinema, and Digital Studies)

Code	Title	Credits
ENGLISH 742	Media Culture	3
Select 9 credits in 700-level seminars in digital studies (theory, criticism, or writing) film and/or media		9
Select two of the following:		6
ENGLISH 709	Rhetoric, Writing, and Information Technology	
ENGLISH 712	Theories in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement	
ENGLISH 715	Narrative Craft and Theory: (Subtitle)	
ENGLISH 720	Modern Literary Theory	
ENGLISH/HIST/ MALLT 740	Approaches to the Modern I	

ENGLISH/HIST/ MALLT 741	Approaches to the Modern II	
ENGLISH 761	Discourse Analysis	
ENGLISH 776	Women Writers:	
ENGLISH 778	Native American Literature:	
ENGLISH 780	African American Literature:	
ENGLISH 812	Seminar in Theories of Composition and Rhetoric:	
ENGLISH 817	Seminar in Critical Writing	
ENGLISH 827	Seminar in Contemporary Literature:	
ENGLISH 828	Seminar in Comparative Literature:	
ENGLISH 871	Seminar in African American Literature:	
ENGLISH 872	Seminar in Women Writers:	
ENGLISH 875	Seminar in Modern Literature:	
ENGLISH 878	Seminar in Feminist Critical Theory:	
ENGLISH 885	Seminar in Critical Theory:	
Select 12 credits of electives in courses numbered 700 and above <sup>1</sup>		12
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Total Credits		30

<sup>1</sup> Which may include up to 6 credits of ENGLISH 790.

## Additional Requirements

### Major Professor as Advisor

The student must have a Major Professor to advise and supervise the student's work as specified in Graduate School regulations. The coordinator of the student's concentration serves as an initial advisor.

### Final Project

A research paper or other project appropriate to the student's professional goals.

### Oral Examination

Usually lasting an hour and a half, the oral exam covers the final project and a reading list of at least 30 texts not listed in the project bibliography or works cited list.

### Regulations Concerning Final Projects and Oral Examinations

1. Students should consult with their advisors before completing 24 credits to determine a final project. Ordinarily, it is a revised and expanded course or seminar paper of at least 30 pages. The project should demonstrate the student's skills in research, critical analysis, argumentation, and prose style. For students in Plan C (Creative Writing), the project is a substantial portfolio, the exact character of which is determined in consultation with the student's MA Committee. The project serves both as a concluding effort at the master's level and also as an indication of a student's potential for doctoral study.
2. In consultation with the student, the Director of Graduate Studies appoints an MA Examining Committee. At least two of the three members must be English Graduate Faculty. The MA Examining Committee administers the final Oral Examination, covering the project and a separate reading list of at least 30 texts, to be selected by the student and approved by the Committee.
3. The project must be submitted and the oral examination completed within one year after the completion of 24 credits. Students should remember that a maximum of 27 credits at the master's level is applicable to the PhD 54 credit requirement.

4. The Examining Committee offers a recommendation regarding the student's qualifications for further graduate study at the doctoral level. The Committee Chair puts this recommendation in writing and places it in the student's academic file.
5. Students who fail the oral examination may be required to revise their final project, retake the examination, or both. The oral examination may be retaken only once. No additional credits may be earned for the revision of the project after a failed examination. For further information regarding the MA project and examination, see the English Graduate Program Handbook.

### Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment.