

ENGLISH, PHD

The Department of English offers master's and doctoral degrees in several areas of specialization: Literature and Cultural Theory; Rhetoric, Professional Writing, and Community Engagement; Creative 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

Students in the UWM Master of Arts degree program in English must pass an M.A. exam and be recommended for admission into the Ph.D. program by their M.A. committee. An application for the Ph.D. program also must be submitted to the Graduate School.

Applicants with master's degrees from other institutions are evaluated on the basis of standard application materials:

- GPA
- Statement of Purpose
- Three Supporting Letters
- A Sample of Academic Writing

Such applicants are admitted to doctoral study provisionally and are required to complete an Academic Review within six weeks of finishing 12 credits.

For more specific information about departmental requirements for admission, please visit the English Department's Graduate Admissions Web page (<https://uwm.edu/english/graduate/admissions/>).

The Academic Review is a one- to two-hour meeting with three faculty members of the English Graduate Faculty. At least two members come from the student's concentration. The Review covers the student's academic progress in doctoral coursework, two unrevised course papers, and a list of 20-25 books chosen by the student in consultation with the reviewers. See the English Graduate Program Handbook for further details regarding the Academic Review. Applicants should contact the Graduate Program Office for additional information and deadlines.

Credits and Courses

The Ph.D. program requires 54 credits beyond the B.A. (56 for Literature and Cultural Theory), including no more than 27 credits earned at the master's level. Course distribution requirements vary according to the doctoral concentration a student enters.

Doctoral Concentration

Students applying to the English doctoral program must indicate their preference for one of the following doctoral concentrations: Literature and Cultural Theory; Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement; Creative Writing; Professional and Technical Writing; Media, Cinema, and Digital Studies. The Director of Graduate Studies and a Program

Coordinator for each concentration provide initial advising for the student in course enrollment and in selecting a Major Professor for long-term advising. Although a continuing doctoral student can change concentrations, such changes require approval by the Coordinator of the new concentration and the Director of Graduate Studies, and may require a substantial amount of additional coursework.

Because course requirements change frequently, students should regularly consult with Program Coordinators or the Director of Graduate Studies regarding doctoral concentration requirements. The following listings reflect current curricular requirements:

Admission to the English PhD program under Plan G (Professional Writing) is suspended as of Fall 2023.

Literature and Cultural Theory

Code	Title	Credits
Select 9 credits in literature courses outside the field of emphasis (at least 3 credits pre-1800)		9
Select 9 credits in cultural theory		9
Select 9 credits in field of emphasis ¹		9
Select one of the following:		3
ENGLISH/HIST/ MALLT 740	Approaches to the Modern I	
ENGLISH/HIST/ MALLT 741	Approaches to the Modern II	
Select 24 credits of electives		24
ENGLISH 703	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Literature (taken during the first semester)	1
ENGLISH 820	Seminar in Advanced Topics in Literary Criticism and Research:	1
Total Credits		56

¹ Primary field of emphasis must be declared prior to submitting the prelim proposal and field lists to the Graduate Program Committee. Field of emphasis will be selected from among those designated by Plan A to be available on the Literature and Cultural Theory Web page.

All credits must be 600-level or above, with no more than 9 credits at the 600 level. Doctoral students may not accumulate more than 6 credits of independent study. (ENGLISH 701 must be counted as elective.)

Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGLISH 701	Writing Pedagogies	3
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 24 credits from the list of core courses below (no more than 6 credits from courses below the 700 level)		24
ENGLISH 427	Writing for Nonprofits	
ENGLISH 431	Topics in Advanced Communications:	
ENGLISH 432	The Rhetoric of Argument	

ENGLISH 439	Information Design	
ENGLISH 443	Grant Writing	
ENGLISH 444	Technical Editing	
ENGLISH 633	Seminar in Rhetoric and Professional Writing:	
ENGLISH 711	Topics in Public and Professional Writing:	
ENGLISH 749	Advanced Internship in Writing and Community Engagement	
ENGLISH 755	Issues in Writing Research:	
ENGLISH 854	Seminar in College Writing Pedagogy:	
ENGLISH 855	Seminar in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement:	
Select 18 credits of electives		18
Total Credits		54

Creative Writing

Code	Title	Credits
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 21 credits at the graduate level in literature and cultural theory, rhetoric and composition, professional writing, and/or media, cinema, and digital studies		21
Select 15 credits in creative writing 700-level or above courses		15
Select 12 credits of electives		12
Total Credits		54

All credits must be 600-level or above, with no more than 6 credits at the 600 level.

Doctoral students may not accumulate more than 6 credits of ENGLISH 999.

Professional Writing

Admission to the English PhD program under Plan G (Professional Writing) is suspended as of Fall 2023.

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
ENGLISH 706	Seminar in Professional Writing Theory and Pedagogy	3
ENGLISH 712	Theories in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement:	3
ENGLISH 713	Research Methods in Rhetorics, Literacies, and Community Engagement:	3
Professional Writing		
Select 6 credits in English 700-level or 400-level U/G courses		6
Select 15 credits in English 800-level courses (with the advisor's approval, a student may take credits in related areas)		15
Electives		
Select 24 credits of electives		24
Total Credits		54

Media, Cinema, and Digital Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
Take 15 credits across these courses:		15
ENGLISH 742	Media Studies	
ENGLISH 743	Film Theory and Criticism	
ENGLISH 876	Seminar in Media Studies:	
ENGLISH 877	Seminar in Film Studies:	
ENGLISH 887	Seminar in Digital Studies:	
6 credits in 700- or 800- level courses in English or related programs		6
Proseminar (take 2 credits)		2
ENGLISH 747	Proseminar in Media, Cinema, and Digital Studies	
Electives		31
31 credits of electives at the graduate level (may include ENGLISH 700 & ENGLISH 701 and up to 2 additional credits of ENGLISH 747)		
Total Credits		54

Additional Requirements

General Restrictions

Doctoral students may not accumulate more than 12 credits in U/G courses and not more than 6 credits in independent study without the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. No more than 18 credits may be taken in courses outside the Department.

Advising

Students are required to consult periodically with their Major Professor. The Major Professor helps the student to define an area of special interest within the concentration for the preliminary examination. The Major Professor also assists the student in the selection of appropriate coursework and may chair the Preliminary Examination Committee.

Foreign Language Requirement

All Ph.D. candidates are required to demonstrate proficiency (reading knowledge) in a foreign language. The choice of a language must be approved by the student's advisor. If a student has not met this requirement in other ways (see English Graduate Program Handbook), a student must pass a two-hour written examination in the translation of a piece of literature or criticism. A student may use a dictionary and/or grammar book. The exam must be arranged in advance with the Director of Graduate Studies and must be taken before the preliminary examination. If a student's Major Professor considers proficiency in more than one language necessary to the student's specific plan of study, exams in more than one language may be required. The exam may be retaken until proficiency is attained.

Residence

The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence requirements (<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/students/academic-policies-and-procedures/doctoral-resources/doctoral-requirements/#residence>).

Doctoral Preliminary Examination

The doctoral preliminary examination consists of a written examination and an oral examination designed to demonstrate the breadth of a student's knowledge and the ability to conduct advanced research in one or more areas of study. The written and oral examinations draw

from field bibliographies with rationale (500 word maximum) prepared by the student and approved by the student's preliminary examination committee and the advisory committee of the student's plan.

The written examination must be at least eight hours long, and it is frequently taken as a three-day, take-home, open book exam. It may be taken at the University or at home, if the committee agrees on the location. An oral exam of two hours covering issues raised during the written exam and/or focusing on the proposed dissertation must follow the written exam within 7-10 days.

Students take the preliminary exam after completing all doctoral coursework or with no more than three credits of doctoral coursework remaining. Students cannot take the exam if they have any incomplete or unreported grades or a GPA less than 3.0. The exam must be finished within one semester after all coursework is completed, excluding summer session. Students may receive a one semester extension for additional coursework from the Director of Graduate Studies. Students who fail the preliminary examination may not proceed to the dissertation. The exam may be retaken only once. See the English Graduate Program Handbook (<http://uwm.edu/english/graduate/graduate-resources/grad-handbook/>) or the Director of Graduate Studies for specific guidelines for governing the preliminary examination process.

Dissertation

The dissertation topic, together with a brief prospectus, must be approved by the Graduate Policy Committee. The student's major professor or a member of the dissertation committee must present the topic and prospectus to the Graduate Policy Committee. See the Director of Graduate Studies and the English Graduate Program Handbook (<http://uwm.edu/english/graduate/graduate-resources/grad-handbook/>) for specific guidelines for selecting a doctoral committee and preparing the dissertation proposal. The Department considers 200 pages a reasonable length for the dissertation.

Dissertation Defense

The completed dissertation is subject to an oral defense, to be arranged by the Coordinator according to Graduate School regulations. A copy of the dissertation is kept in the Department office.

Time Limit

All degree requirements must be completed within ten years from the date of initial enrollment in the doctoral program.

For additional information see the Graduate School PhD requirements (<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/students/academic-policies-and-procedures/doctoral-resources/doctoral-requirements/>).

English PhD Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the English doctoral program will be able to:

- Demonstrate general knowledge of the field, including familiarity with major questions, theoretical approaches, intellectual developments, and methods of professional writing that characterize the student's program of study.
- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of a specialized area of research, including major trends, developments, and conversations in the field, and a clear sense of the significance of their own contributions.
- Complete an original dissertation project that intervenes meaningfully in ongoing critical debates or artistic movements.

- Frame, analyze, and respond to complex issues related to the student's subfield, and to formulate judgements about those issues in extended and in-depth critical analysis.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills.