

Master of Arts in English

The M.A. in Literature and the M.A. in Literature & Literary Theory provide students with a broad knowledge of literatures in English across a range of time periods, as well as an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of the discipline. This program has special strengths in ecocriticism and posthuman studies, nineteenth-century U.S. literature, science fiction & fantasy, and Victorian literature.

The M.A. in Rhetoric & Composition provides students with a broad knowledge of writing and the teaching of writing, including the study of composing across multiple genres, media and situations. This program has special strengths in genre and language theory, multimodality and digital rhetorics, public rhetoric, and writing pedagogy.

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Graduate Admission

To be admitted to any of the department's graduate degree tracks, a student must have a strong undergraduate record, particularly in the humanities. Applicants are expected to have some familiarity with British and American literary history and the work of the major writers in English. Applicants for graduate work in literary studies and rhetoric-composition studies should be able to demonstrate, with writing samples, their ability to produce advanced analytical and interpretive scholarly writing. For complete admission information, see below.

In addition to the application itself, please submit the following supplemental materials:

1. A resumé or curriculum vitae.
2. A statement of approximately 500 words describing your interests, training, experience (including teaching experience), academic ability, and goals.
3. Letters of recommendation from three professors. Recommenders are strongly encouraged to submit their letters electronically. Paper letters must be submitted on the institution's letterhead, in a sealed envelope, addressed directly to the Graduate Director. Letters should, if possible, speak to potential as a teacher, although they should primarily be focused on academic and scholarly ability.
4. One transcript or student-generated grade/advising report from each university previously attended. Scanned or electronic copies are acceptable for the application. If you are uncertain what constitutes

an appropriate transcript or grade report, please contact the Graduate Program Coordinator.

5. M.A. applicants must submit two examples of academic writing. Academic sample length can vary--between 8 and 20 pages is generally recommended.

All applicants must submit their graduate application online (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>). All supplemental materials (transcripts, writing samples, letters of recommendation, etc.) may be attached electronically and submitted with the online application. Those who cannot submit supplemental materials electronically may mail them to the department:

The University of Kansas
Department of English
Graduate Applications
1445 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 3001
Lawrence, KS 66045

M.A. in English Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts in English requires a total of 30 hours and allows for the following 3 degree completion options.

1. Master's Thesis Defense
2. Portfolio Defense
3. Final Oral Exam

No more than 6 hours may be taken at the 600 level or below. ENGL 998 does not count as a seminar or 900-level class. 2 courses (6 hours) outside the department may be included with approval of the director of graduate studies.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|--|-----------|
| Required Coursework | | |
| ENGL 800 | Methods, Theory, and Professionalism | 3 |
| ENGL 801 | Study and Teaching of Writing (12 hours of coursework in selected concentration) | 12 |
| 12 hours of coursework in a chosen concentration | | 12 |
| 6 hours of ENGL Seminars at the 900+ level | | 6 |
| Final Project | | 6 |
| ENGL 899- MA/MFA Thesis (6 hours) | | |
| ENGL 898- Portfolio Preparation (6 hours) | | |
| ENGL 897- Exam Preparation (3 hours) + ENGL elective at 700+ (3 hours) | | |
| Total Hours | | 39 |

Literature Concentration

Students must select 3 courses from each area below, plus a 4th course from any of the areas.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Pre-1700 courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 620 | Renaissance English Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 633 | Milton | |
| ENGL 725 | Shakespeare: _____ | |
| ENGL 776 | American Literature to 1900: _____ | |
| 1700 to 1900 courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 650 | Romantic Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 655 | Victorian Literature: _____ | |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| ENGL 750 | British Literature of the 19th Century: _____ | |
| ENGL 776 | American Literature to 1900: _____ | |
| ENGL 950 | Seminar in 19th Century British Literature: _____ | |
| Post-1900 courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 730 | Topics in Early Modern Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 760 | British Literature of the 20th Century: _____ | |
| ENGL 777 | American Literature after 1900: _____ | |
| One course from any of the areas above | | 3 |
| Other courses may qualify pending approval of the director of graduate studies | | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |

Literature and Literary Theory Concentration

Students must select 4 courses from the options below.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|---|-----------|
| Pre-1800 courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 620 | Renaissance English Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 633 | Milton | |
| ENGL 650 | Romantic Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 725 | Shakespeare: _____ | |
| ENGL 776 | American Literature to 1900: _____ | |
| Post-1800 courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 655 | Victorian Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 730 | Topics in Early Modern Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 750 | British Literature of the 19th Century: _____ | |
| ENGL 760 | British Literature of the 20th Century: _____ | |
| ENGL 776 | American Literature to 1900: _____ | |
| ENGL 777 | American Literature after 1900: _____ | |
| ENGL 950 | Seminar in 19th Century British Literature: _____ | |
| Literary Theory courses (Choose 2) | | 6 |
| ENGL 709 | Critical Theory: Problems and Principles: _____ | |
| ENGL 908 | Seminar in Literary Criticism: _____ | |
| Other courses may qualify pending approval of the director of graduate studies | | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |

Rhetoric and Composition Concentration

Students must select 4 courses from the options below.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|----------|
| English Language Studies courses (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 709 | Critical Theory: Problems and Principles: _____ | |
| ENGL 780 | Composition Studies | |
| ENGL 880 | Topics in Composition Studies and Rhetoric: _____ | |
| English Language Seminars (Choose 1) | | 3 |
| ENGL 904 | Seminar in Composition Theory: _____ | |
| ENGL 905 | Seminar in the English Language: _____ | |
| Other Coursework Options | | 6 |
| Students who choose the Final Oral Exam option must take 2 additional courses, including at least 1 seminar | | |
| ENGL 620 | Renaissance English Literature: _____ | |
| ENGL 633 | Milton | |

| | |
|----------|--|
| ENGL 650 | Romantic Literature: _____ |
| ENGL 655 | Victorian Literature: _____ |
| ENGL 725 | Shakespeare: _____ |
| ENGL 730 | Topics in Early Modern Literature: _____ |
| ENGL 750 | British Literature of the 19th Century: _____ |
| ENGL 760 | British Literature of the 20th Century: _____ |
| ENGL 774 | Topics in Literatures of Africa and the African Diaspora: _____ |
| ENGL 776 | American Literature to 1900: _____ |
| ENGL 777 | American Literature after 1900: _____ |
| ENGL 908 | Seminar in Literary Criticism: _____ |
| ENGL 950 | Seminar in 19th Century British Literature: _____ |
| ENGL 970 | Seminar in American Literature: _____ |
| ENGL 974 | Seminar in Literatures of Africa and the African Diaspora: _____ |

Other courses may qualify pending approval of the director of graduate studies

Total Hours **12**

Master's Thesis Final Defense

Oral presentation and defense of a thesis to a faculty committee. The thesis consists of a single, scholarly piece of writing approximately 30 to 40 pages in length. The committee should meet the requirements outlined in the Office of Graduate Studies' Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-oral-exam-committee-composition/>).

Portfolio Defense

Oral presentation and defense of a portfolio of work to a faculty committee. The portfolio is comprised of shorter scholarly pieces, as agreed upon by the committee, plus a brief cover essay of 3-5 pages, all totaling 40 to 50 pages of writing. The committee should meet the requirements outlined in the Office of Graduate Studies' Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-oral-exam-committee-composition/>).

Final Oral Exam

Oral presentation and examination of a reading list with a faculty committee. The reading list must be 30 texts long and be approved by the committee. Requirements for the composition of the lists are determined by concentration, as noted below. The committee should meet the requirements outlined in the Office of Graduate Studies' Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition policy (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/masters-oral-exam-committee-composition/>).

Literature: At least 6 texts from before 1700; at least 6 texts from 1700-1900; and at least 6 texts from 1900-present.

Literature and Literary Theory: At least 6 texts pre-1800; at least 6 texts post-1800; and at least 12 texts in theory.

Rhetoric and Composition: A 15-item exam list of works in rhetoric and composition and a 15-item exam list of works in a second area: literature, literary theory, English language studies, or specialty within rhetoric and composition.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of several major fields of literary, cultural, and/or rhetorical expression.
- write clearly and effectively in various scholarly modes and contexts.
- apply relevant theories, methodologies, and analytical practices that address fundamental questions in their primary area of study.
- understand and appreciate the development, culture, and diversity of societies, past and present, through the study of primary and secondary texts.