

Master of Arts in English Degree Plans

The English Department offers two options leading to the Master of Arts degree:

1. Track A – Masters of Arts degree (thesis option – 30 semester credit hours +6 research hours for thesis) – in literature study with an emphasis in American, African-American, or British literature.
2. Track B – Masters of Arts degree (non-thesis option – 36 semester credit hours for non-thesis) – with a generalist concentration in literary studies. With the approval of the Department Chair and the instructor, the student will devote three credits to a “Directed Reading and Research” course resulting in two or more longer papers.

Both the MA degree (thesis option) and the MA degree (non-thesis option) are designed to prepare students for entry to the professional world or further graduate study.

Master of Arts Degree, Track A (thesis option)

In order to earn a Master’s degree in English under Track A, a candidate must complete the following departmental requirements:

1. Thirty hours of graduate work in English exclusive of English 837 (Thesis in Progress), with an emphasis in African American, American, or British literature)
Required Core Courses: English 502, 533, and 638
2. Evidence that the student either has passed at least twelve semester hours of a foreign language or has a reading knowledge of some foreign language (such competency to be certified, through examination, by the Department of Foreign Languages)
3. A written comprehensive examination
4. End of program assessment that includes a comprehensive test, portfolio, and research completion and evaluation
5. An acceptable thesis based on an investigation of a subject approved by the Department and the University Graduate School
6. An oral defense of the thesis before the committee of graduate faculty advisors
7. A completed thesis approved by the University Graduate School

Master of Arts Degree, Track B (non-thesis option)

In order to earn a Master’s degree in English under Track B, a candidate must complete the following departmental requirements:

1. Thirty-six hours of graduate work in English for a general concentration in literature
Required Core Courses: English 502, 533, and 638
2. Evidence that the student either has passed at least twelve semester hours of a foreign language or has a reading knowledge of a foreign language (such competency to be certified, through examination by the Department of Foreign Languages)
3. A written comprehensive examination
4. End of program assessment that includes the comprehensive examination, portfolio evaluation, and research completion
5. An acceptable portfolio of at least six seminar-length analyses covering each of the areas of required studies (American, African-American, British, Criticism, Directed Study) with the portfolio to be evaluated by members of the graduate faculty
6. An oral review of the portfolio before the committee of graduate faculty advisors