ENGLISH, MASTER OF ARTS

Degree Options available for Master of Arts in English

- Option A: Literature Emphasis - Thesis Option (30 Hours)
- Option B: Literature Emphasis - Examination Option (36 Hours)
- Option C: Creative Writing Emphasis (30 Hours)
- Option D: Children’s and Adolescent Literature Emphasis - Thesis Option (30 Hours)
- Option E: Children’s and Adolescent Literature Emphasis - Examination Option (36 Hours)
- Option F: Writing Emphasis - ONLINE Option (36 Hours)

Master of Arts in English

The Master of Arts in English program presents a variety of courses in World, British, and United States literatures, creative writing, and pedagogy. The program of study offers seminars, independent readings, special topic courses and workshops. It serves students wishing to pursue an advanced degree in Literary studies, as well as high school teachers and students seeking teacher certification. Students may choose from one of four emphases, the Literature Emphasis, the Creative Writing Emphasis, the Children’s and Adolescent Literature Emphasis, or the Writing Emphasis. Students in the Literature emphases may choose either a 30-hour thesis option or a 36-hour comprehensive exam option; both options require courses in literature and literary criticism.

Admission Process

Departmental admission to the Graduate program is based on transcripts, a writing sample, three letters of recommendation, and the appropriate application forms (including indication of desired degree option). The Graduate Committee of the Department of English will weigh (and in some circumstances waive) these documents in the best interest of the program and the applicant. A student interested in pursuing a degree program in English should:

1. Meet the requirements for admission¹ set by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research,
2. Submit an official undergraduate transcript to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research showing at least 18 semester hours in upper division (300-400 level) courses in literature, writing, and linguistics,
3. Submit an application to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research,
4. Submit a writing sample: for the literature tracks, fifteen pages that demonstrate the applicant’s critical skills in analyzing literature; for the creative writing track, ten pages that reflect the applicant’s critical skills in analyzing literature and fifteen pages of creative writing in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, or drama (for stage or screen),
5. Submit three letters of recommendation,
6. Submit a letter of interest outlining motivation for post-graduate study at UNK, previous work in the discipline, particular literary interests, and educational goals.

Graduate College Degree Requirements

1. A student’s Program of Study must include at least half or more hours of 800-level courses.

2. At the graduate level, credit/no credit courses must be a function of the course and not a choice of the student. Only 6 hours of credit/no credit courses may be applied toward a Master of Arts degree.
3. A Comprehensive Examination must be completed and results filed with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at least four weeks before graduation date.

English Department Degree Requirements

At least half of the course work in each emphasis (Literature, Creative Writing, Children’s and Adolescent Literature, and Writing) must be completed in non-P courses.

¹ In the absence of any of the above, admission may be granted on a conditional basis.

Offered by Department of English (http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/departments/english)

Literature, Creative Writing, Children's and Adolescent Literature, Writing Emphases

Options A through E are campus programs, while Option F is available only online.

MA in English

Literature Emphasis

Option A: Literature Emphasis - Thesis Option

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 806</td>
<td>Principles of Literary Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENG 807</td>
<td>History of Literary Criticism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Literature Requirements

Select 6 credit hours of Literature of the United States 6
Select 6 credit hours of Literature of England and the Commonwealth and World Literature 6

Thesis Requirements

ENG 896  Thesis 6

Supporting Courses

Select 6-9 credit hours of Electives 6-9

Graduate Assistant Requirement

ENG 805  The Teaching of Composition¹ 3

Comprehensive Examination²

Total Credit Hours 30

Option B: Literature Emphasis - Examination Option

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Literature Requirements

Select 6 credit hours of Literature of the United States 6
Select 6 credit hours of Literature of England and the Commonwealth and World Literature 6

Supporting Courses
Select 18-21 credit hours of Electives  
Graduate Assistant Requirement  
ENG 805 The Teaching of Composition  

The Examination  

Total Credit Hours 36

Creative Writing Emphasis  
Option C: Creative Writing Emphasis  
(The emphasis in Creative Writing is a studio/academic degree of 30 credit hours, with 12 credit hours in creative writing courses.)

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Literature Requirements  
Select 3 credit hours of Literature of the United States  
Select 3 credit hours of Literature of England and the Commonwealth and World Literature

Creative Writing Requirements  
Select 12 credit hours of the following:  
ENG 822P Poetry Writing  
ENG 823P Fiction Writing  
ENG 824 Drama Writing  
ENG 825 Creative Nonfiction  
ENG 826 Prosody: The Music of Poetic Form  
ENG 827 Colloquium: Creative Writing  
ENG 845 Creative Writing for Public School Teachers  
ENG 890P Ft. Kearny Writers’ Workshop

Thesis Requirements  
ENG 896 Thesis  

Supporting Courses  
Select 3 credit hours of Electives

Graduate Assistant Requirement  
ENG 805 The Teaching of Composition

Comprehensive Examination

Total Credit Hours 27-30

Option E: Children’s and Adolescent Literature Emphasis - Examination Option

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<tr>
<td>ENG 864</td>
<td>Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature &amp; Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
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Literature Requirements  
Select 12 credit hours of the following:  
ENG 847/847P Children’s Literature  
ENG 848/848P Literature for Adolescents  
ENG 849 Children’s Adolescent Lit  
ENG 861 Fairy Tales & Folklore  
ENG 863 The Graphic Novel

Supporting Courses:  
Select 18-21 credit hours of 800-level course work from the English department’s graduate offerings

Graduate Assistant Requirement  
ENG 805 The Teaching of Composition

The Examination

Total Credit Hours 36

Writing Emphasis  
Option F: Writing Emphasis - ONLINE Option  
(The emphasis in Writing is an online academic degree of 36 credit hours, with 18 credit hours in writing courses.)

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Literature Requirements  
Select 3 credit hours of Literature of the United States  
Select 3 credit hours of Literature of England and the Commonwealth and World Literature

Writing Requirements  
Select 18 credit hours of the following:  
ENG 803 Descriptive Linguistics  
ENG 814 Writing Tutorial  
ENG 822P Poetry Writing  
ENG 823P Fiction Writing  
ENG 824 Drama Writing  
ENG 825 Creative Nonfiction
ENG 871P  Language and Composition in the Secondary School
ENG 895  Directed Readings
ENG 899  Special Topics

Supporting Courses
Select 9 credit hours of ENG 800-level courses from the English department's graduate offerings

Exit Examination

Total Credit Hours 36

Graduate Assistantships
Graduate Assistantships provide tuition remission and a stipend. Teaching Assistants are usually responsible for teaching four composition courses in an academic year with the possibility of summer teaching stipends. Assistantships are also available for research interns and Writing Center tutors.

See English Program Information and Admission Requirements (http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/departments/english) for more information about the program, and see Department of English (http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/departments/english) for contact information

1 Required for all graduate assistants; must be taken at earliest opportunity.
2 The thesis oral defense serves as the Comprehensive Examination for thesis students. The student’s Thesis Committee serves as the Comprehensive Examination Committee and administers a written or oral exam. The Thesis preparation and review process are outlined in the Graduate Studies in English Handbook.
3 Students who select the examination option will prepare reading lists and questions in two major areas of study. The areas of study from which students may choose are 1) British, 2) World, 3) American and 4) Language/Linguistics/Rhetoric/Theory.
4 Students will select two English graduate faculty members in the appropriate areas to serve as their examiners. Students will take a written examination, which will be followed by an oral defense. Further information about the examination process can be found in the Graduate Studies in English Handbook.
5 Please note that creative writing emphasis students may repeat a creative writing course for up to 6 credit hours.
6 Students in the Creative Writing Emphasis will write a creative thesis in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or drama writing. The student’s thesis committee serves as a Comprehensive Examination Committee and administers an oral exam.
7 Generally a student completes the Comprehensive Examination during the last semester of study. After the successful completion of at least 12 credit hours and prior to selection of a Thesis/Comprehensive Examination Committee and preparation of a thesis or examination, the student must file for Candidacy for the Master’s Degree.
8 A student may be refused admission to candidacy for the Master’s Degree if previous college record, performance on qualifying criteria, or the quality of graduate work are such as to indicate inability to satisfactorily complete graduate study.
9 Students who select the examination option will, in conjunction with the faculty, prepare reading lists and questions in Children’s and Adolescent Literature with the option of an additional supporting area (British literature, American literature, World literature, Rhetoric, Linguistics, Theory).
10 Please note that writing emphasis students may repeat a writing course and a special topics course for up to 6 credit hours and are limited to a total of 18 credit hours of 800-level P courses.
11 All students must complete successfully an Exit Examination during the last semester of study. After the successful completion of at least 18 credit hours and prior to the formation of an Exit Examination Committee and preparation of an examination, the student must file for Candidacy for the Master’s Degree.