



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL | MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of English

DEGREES OFFERED

- M.A. in English
 - Language, Rhetoric, and Composition Studies
 - Literary Studies



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The Master of Arts in English focuses on the interconnectedness of writing, teaching, and literary studies. At the heart of the program is a concern for the integrated interests of students and teachers in all branches of the field. Teachers, scholars, and writers in the program gain a better understanding of their own practices by seeing the extent to which each writer is also a literary critic, each teacher is also a writer and reader of literature, and all critics and readers are teachers and writers. The program is designed to extend and deepen the intellectual rigor of customary approaches to literature by examining issues these approaches often leave unaddressed, such as the history and institutionalization of the discipline; the relationship between theory and the practices of writing, teaching and textual studies; and the processes by which knowledge in the field of English has been and is constructed. The program responds to changing perspectives in the humanities and expands the professional options of its graduate students through a broadly conceived course of study and an integrated curriculum providing instruction in the areas of literary criticism, rhetoric and composition studies, and literary history. The program also allows students flexibility to design part of their program in consultation with their graduate advisor.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts degree requires the minimum completion of 30 course credits. Students select one of two options for the Master of Arts degree in English. The first option involves 24 hours of course work and 6 hours of professional paper, the latter 21 hours of course work and 10 hours of thesis. The program also offers concentrations in language, rhetoric, and pedagogy or literary studies. Students are expected to have completed the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree in English. Students with undergraduate degrees other than English are encouraged to apply; however, they may be required to take additional English courses as a condition of their acceptance.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Graduate students may apply for departmental teaching assistantships, which are awarded on a competitive basis. To apply for an assistantship, discuss your interest in teaching in the personal essay you will submit as part of your application packet.

ADMISSION

University standards for admission with full standing to the Division of Graduate Education include:

- 3.0 grade point average (A=4.0) and official transcripts for all undergraduate course work

Additionally, the Department of English requires:

- Three letters of recommendation from people who can comment on your potential for success in a graduate program in English
- A personal essay in which you discuss your reasons for pursuing the Master of Arts in English
- 10-15 page writing sample
- Optional-Official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores

Deadline for admission and consideration for a teaching assistantship is January 31st. The final deadlines for admission only are July 1 (fall semester) and November 1 (spring semester). Deadlines for international students are May 15 (fall semester) and September 15 (spring semester).

FACULTY

DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Kirk Branch

PROFESSORS

Robert Bennett – Postmodern Culture, Urban Studies, and American Studies

Kirk Branch – Composition, Rhetorical Theory, Literacy Theory, Pedagogy

Doug Downs – Writing Studies, Writing in the Disciplines, Research Pedagogy

Philip Gaines – Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Composition

Linda Karell – Western American Literature, Authorship Studies

Susan Kollin – 20th and 21st Century American Literature, Western American Literature and Film, Environmental Humanities

Marvin Lansverk – Eighteenth-century British Literature

Michelle Miley – Writing Center Theory, Writing across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines, Teacher Research

Gretchen Minton – Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama, the English Reformation and Renaissance, Christian Late Antiquity, Drama, Textual Editing

Robert Petrone – English Education, Sociocultural Literacy and Learning, (Youth) Cultural Studies

Kathleen Ryan – Feminist Rhetorics; Rhetoric, Composition Theory, and Pedagogy

Amy Thomas – Nineteenth-century American Literature, History of the Book

Allison Wynhoff Olsen – Education: Teaching and Learning/Adolescent, Post-Secondary and Community Literacies

