

English MA/MS

Students seeking a master's degree in English now have two options:

1) 36-semester hour program with a thesis (ENG518 Thesis - 6 semester hours)

2) 36-semester hour program with an independent research project (ENG595 Research Lit/Techniques Non-Thesis - 3 semester hours)

Both programs lead to an MA degree for students who demonstrate foreign language proficiency or an MS degree for students without foreign language proficiency.

The department encourages students to pursue the non-thesis option (ENG595) rather than the traditional thesis route (ENG518). We encourage the ENG 595 option over the traditional thesis route because many universities, including Texas A&M University, are phasing out thesis requirements in favor of capstone portfolio projects. This trend provides students more flexibility in demonstrating their scholarly skills and allows them to produce research relevant to various career paths beyond academia. Students should consult with the Director of English Graduate Studies to determine which program best fits their goals and interests.

Most coursework is elective for both 36 semester hour programs, but students should select courses that connect to their scholarly interests and prepare them for the final research project (ENG595 or ENG518). Final projects may focus on literature, composition, linguistics, children's literature, or a combination, and may also emphasize the student's creative writing with committee approval.

Foreign Language Requirement for MA

A candidate for the Master of Arts degree must meet the language requirement:

1. Successful completion of at least 12 semester hours (college/university level) in one foreign language.
2. Successful completion of 6 semester hours (college/university level) and 2 years of high school credit in one foreign language.
3. Successful completion of 3 semester hours (college/university level) and 3 years of high school credit in one foreign language.
4. Successful completion of 12 semester hours of American Sign Language (ASL).
5. Completion of a Bachelor of Arts degree from A&M-Commerce
6. Department - Foreign Language Proficiency Exam (FLPE)
7. Successful completion of the American Council on Teaching of Foreign Languages examination with a minimum score/rating of intermediate proficiency in one of the following areas:
 - Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or
 - Oral Proficiency Interview - Computer (OPIc) or
 - Written Proficiency Test (WPT)

Students who do not satisfy the foreign language requirement will receive an MS degree rather than an MA

Master of Arts/Master of Science in English - Option I Thesis

Thesis (6 semester hours)

ENG 518	Thesis (6 semester hours required)	3-6
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Examination: Written and oral proposal of Thesis and final defense

Only 6 semester hours of credit for 518 will be given upon satisfactory completion of the requirement

Required Core Courses (15 semester hours)

ENG 502	Introduction to Graduate Studies in English	3
ENG 520	Contemporary Critical Practices in English Studies	3
ENG 599	Bibliography and Methods of Research	3
ENG 613	Digital Humanities	3
ENG 681	Academic Discourse	3

Students choose one of the following emphasis areas for (12 semester hours)

Rhetoric and Composition (12 semester hours)

ENG 515	Histories & Theories of Rhetoric	3
ENG 680	Composition Studies	3
ENG 570	Cultural Rhetorics	3

Select 1 course (3 semester hours) from the following course options:

ENG 513	Composing in the 21st Century	3
ENG 611	Writing with Digital Media	3
ENG 771	Writing Democracy	3
ENG 772	Rhetorics of Labor	3

ENG 780	Text and Genders	3
OR		
Literature (12 semester hours)		
Select four courses (12 semester hours) from the following options:		
ENG 503	Marginalized Literatures	3
ENG 504	Graphic Narratives	3
ENG 505	History of Children's Literature	3
ENG 506	Problems in Adolescent Literature	3
ENG 507	Children and Adaptation	3
ENG 508	Reality in Children's Literature	3
ENG 509	Literary Genres	3
ENG 510	Introduction to Film Studies	3
ENG 516	Early American Literature	3
ENG 519	American Lit in Transition	3
ENG 521	American Modernities	3
ENG 522	Maj Figures in Amer Lit	3
ENG 525	Contemporary Literature	3
ENG 526	Studies in Shakespeare	3
ENG 527	Antebellum American Lit	3
ENG 530	History of Narrative Film	3
ENG 531	Maj Fig & Mov Brit Lit	3
ENG 534	Med Renaiss Brit Lit	3
ENG 536	Eighteenth-Century British Literature	3
ENG 537	Mod Transf Brit Irish Lit	3
ENG 540	Development British Novel	3
ENG 610	Studies in Film Genres	3
ENG 620	Adaptations to Film	3
ENG 710	Film Theory & Criticism	3
ENG 720	Sptc: in Film Studies	3
ENG 780	Text and Genders	3
ENG 781	Major Figures World Lit	3
OR		
Generalist (12 semester hours)		
Select four courses from either concentration above to total 12 semester hours		12
Electives (3 semester hours)		
Electives 3 semester hours		3
Total Hours		36

Master of Arts/Master of Science in English - Option II Non-Thesis

Research (3 semester hours)

ENG 595	Research Lit/Techniques (3 semester hours required)	3
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Required Core Courses (15 semester hours)

ENG 502	Introduction to Graduate Studies in English	3
ENG 599	Bibliography and Methods of Research	3
ENG 520	Contemporary Critical Practices in English Studies	3
ENG 613	Digital Humanities	3
ENG 681	Academic Discourse	3

Students choose one of the following emphasis areas for 12 semester hours

Rhetoric and Composition

ENG 515	Histories & Theories of Rhetoric	3
ENG 680	Composition Studies	3
ENG 570	Cultural Rhetorics	3

Select from the following course options:		
ENG 513	Composing in the 21st Century	3
ENG 611	Writing with Digital Media	3
ENG 771	Writing Democracy	3
ENG 772	Rhetorics of Labor	3
ENG 780	Text and Genders	3
OR		
Literature		
12 semester hours of electives		
ENG 503	Marginalized Literatures	3
ENG 504	Graphic Narratives	3
ENG 505	History of Children's Literature	3
ENG 506	Problems in Adolescent Literature	3
ENG 507	Children and Adaptation	3
ENG 508	Reality in Children's Literature	3
ENG 509	Literary Genres	3
ENG 510	Introduction to Film Studies	3
ENG 516	Early American Literature	3
ENG 519	American Lit in Transition	3
ENG 521	American Modernities	3
ENG 522	Maj Figures in Amer Lit	3
ENG 525	Contemporary Literature	3
ENG 526	Studies in Shakespeare	3
ENG 527	Antebellum American Lit	3
ENG 530	History of Narrative Film	3
ENG 531	Maj Fig & Mov Brit Lit	3
ENG 534	Med Renaiss Brit Lit	3
ENG 536	Eighteenth-Century British Literature	3
ENG 537	Mod Transf Brit Irish Lit	3
ENG 540	Development British Novel	3
ENG 610	Studies in Film Genres	3
ENG 620	Adaptations to Film	3
ENG 710	Film Theory & Criticism	3
ENG 720	Sptc: in Film Studies	3
ENG 780	Text and Genders	3
ENG 781	Major Figures World Lit	3
OR		
Generalist		
Select four courses from either concentration above to total 12 semester hours		12
Electives		
Electives 6 semester hours		6
Total Hours		36

Note: Successful completion of the Comprehensive Exam is required of all students.