

ENGLISH

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

M.A. students choose from three specializations: Literature, Creative Writing, and TESOL (Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages).

The M.A. in English covers the major periods and concepts in American and British literature. At the heart of the graduate program are the graduate seminars: small, intensive courses which explore a wide range of subjects, from the medieval legend of King Arthur to contemporary Native American poetry, from Romantic period women writers to twentieth-century magical realism, from literary theory to fiction writing.

Because of the relatively small size and congenial atmosphere of the department, professors are willing and able to give students the support and guidance they need to be successful as graduate students and professionals. Professors work intensively with graduate students on their writing and scholarship, successfully preparing students to present and publish their work.

Full-time students who are not teaching assistants can usually complete the M.A. program in a calendar year. Most teaching assistants finish the degree in two academic years. Full-time students pursuing an M.A. and teaching certification simultaneously can usually complete the program (including required student teaching) in two academic years.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Completion of a B.A. in English (or its equivalent)
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
- TOEFL score of at least 105 (Internet-based test), 620 (paper test) or 260 (computer test), or IELTS score of 7.0, if applicable; required of international applicants, except those whose primary language in English and who have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in which English is the language of instruction.
- Applicants not meeting all of these qualifications may be admitted provisionally.
- The GRE is *not* required.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

6-8 weeks before classes start

Applicants who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships, however, should submit applications by March 15 for the proceeding academic year.

GETTING STARTED:

Prospective graduate students may apply through the Graduate School at www.usd.edu/grad/how-to-apply.cfm. Applications for the M.A. in English are reviewed year round.

The Graduate School forwards completed applications to the appropriate academic department for review. The department will then recommend the admission status of the applicant to the Dean of the Graduate School, who will make the final decision on admission.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants must submit all of the following:

- Application form, including a one-page statement of purpose in which you explain your reasons for seeking an M.A. in English, the area(s) of study which interest you most, and your career plans.
- Three confidential letters of recommendation.
- One official transcript of all coursework for undergraduate degree.
- A 10-15 page sample of critical writing on literature or a related topic. Applicants for the creative specialization should also submit a brief sample of creative writing.
- \$35.00 USD application fee.
- Application for teaching assistantship (optional).
- International applicants should also submit either TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, please visit www.usd.edu/grad or contact:

University of South Dakota
Department of English
Phone: 605-677-5229
Fax: 605-677-5298
English@usd.edu

University of South Dakota
Graduate School
Phone: 605-677-6240
Phone: 800-233-7937
grad@usd.edu
www.usd.edu/grad



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

M.A. IN ENGLISH: 30-36 CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED:

PLAN A (THESIS):

30 CREDIT HOURS

- Required core: 18 credit hours
- Thesis: 6 credit hours
- Electives: 6 credit hours

PLAN B (THESIS):

33-36 CREDIT HOURS

- Required Core: 18 credit hours
- Electives/Non-Departmental Requirements: 15-18 credit hours

REQUIRED CORE: 18 CREDIT HOURS

- Early British Literature (6 credit hours)
- Later British or American Literature (6 credit hours)
- Language, Writing, or Pedagogy (3 credit hours)
- Literacy Criticism (3 credit hours)

At least three courses must be seminars at the 700 or 800 level.

ELECTIVES/NON-DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS: 6-18 CREDIT HOURS

Specialization: Literature (Plan A)

- Electives: 6 credit hours

Specialization: Creative Writing (Plan A)

- Electives: 6 credit hours

Specialization: Literature (Plan B)

- ENGL / LING Electives: 3 credit hours
- Electives: 12 credit hours

***Other requirements include comprehensive examinations. Students should consult the departmental graduate student handbook for additional information.**

Specialization: TESOL (Plan B)

A total of 18 hours must be distributed as follows:

Curriculum Design (3 hours)

- ENGL 509: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Linguistics (6 hours) - choose from:

- LING Electives
- PSYC 508: Psycholinguistics

Multicultural Communication (3 hours) - choose from:

- SOC 550: Race and Ethnic Minorities
- SPSY 790: Seminar in Multiculturalism and Professional Issues
- EDFN 575: Human Relations
- INED 510: Multicultural Studies and Human Relations
- SPCM 570: Intercultural Communication

Reading (3 hours) - choose from:

- SEED 550: 7-12 Teaching Reading in Content Areas
- ELED 757: Assessment, Diagnosis, and Interventions for Effective Reading Instruction
- ELED 790: Seminar in Elementary Education
- ELED 795: Practicum in Elementary Education

Education (3 hours) - choose from:

- AHED 701: Adult Education
- AHED 730: Junior/Community College
- AHED 740: Continuing Education
- EPSY 741: Cognitive Approaches to Educational Psychology
- EPSY 760: Principles of Instructional Design
- LT 712: Principles of Learning for Instructional Technologies



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