

## M.A. in English Description

The M.A. in English is a specialist degree preparing students for further study at the Ph.D. level or for teaching in postsecondary education as well as for literary interpretation and scholarly pursuits. Upon completion of the degree, graduates should be aware of the richness inherent in literature written in English and to have honed to a high level both interpretive thinking and oral and written competencies.

### Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30 Course Requirements

The requirements of the M.A. in English include 24 hours of course work with a B average; 6 hours of thesis credit; and the successful defense of the master's thesis or portfolio. Prior to the formation of a thesis or portfolio committee (typically in the student's second year), students pursuing the M.A. degree should expect to meet once a year to discuss their progress.

For all students pursuing the M.A. degree, course work must include Engl 600 (Introduction to Graduate Study) during the first fall semester of enrollment in full standing. The student's course work will include 6 hours in English or American literature before 1800; 6 hours in English or American literature after 1800; and up to 6 hours of graduate course work in related disciplines, 3 of which maybe taken as independent study/directed reading. Application deadlines for directed reading courses in the fall and spring semesters are, respectively, April 1 and November 1. Graduate instructors teaching in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric are required to complete Engl 617 (Teaching College English), typically in the spring of their first year of enrollment in full standing.

**Program in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies:** Students may receive an M.A. with specialization in Renaissance and Early Modern studies by completing 6 hours of graduate course work in Renaissance and Early Modern studies and submitting a thesis on a Renaissance or Early Modern subject. Students are encouraged to take 3 hours in a related discipline such as history, religion, or art, provided the focus of the course is on the Renaissance or Early Modern period.

**Thesis Defense:** An oral defense is the final stage before the student is recommended for the degree.

