

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (ENGL)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The Department of English offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees; particular strengths of the department include early British literature; American literature; literature of the African diaspora; postcolonial and transnational literary studies; digital humanities; feminist theory and gender studies; and composition and rhetoric. The Department also offers a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing (<http://pdc-webapp-lamp27.umd.edu/Catalog/public-programs-detail.php?CRWR>) (See listing for Creative Writing (<http://pdc-webapp-lamp27.umd.edu/Catalog/public-programs-detail.php?CRWR>)). Most students enrolled in graduate programs in English Language and Literature seek employment in higher education, but many also seek non-academic employment in publishing, business and technical writing, administration, and personnel management. To assist with placement, the department has a Placement Director and the university has a Career Development Center. For a list of faculty currently accepting graduate students to work with, please see our website (<https://english.umd.edu/faculty-accepting-graduate-students/>).

Financial Assistance

The English Department, in conjunction with the College of Arts and Humanities and the Graduate School, awards a combination of fellowships and teaching assistantships to admitted PhD candidates. Limited financial aid (usually in the form of teaching assistantships) is available to some incoming MA students.

Contact

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University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Email: englishgrad@umd.edu

Website: <http://www.english.umd.edu>

Courses: ENGL (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/engl/>)

Relationships: Comparative Literature (CMLT) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/comparative-literature-cmlt/>), Creative Writing (CRWR) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/creative-writing-crwr/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

1. Statement of Purpose: A statement addressing the intended focus of your graduate studies and how your past educational experiences have prepared you for this course of study. If applicable, this statement would also be the place to address any unusual challenges that you may have faced during your academic career and/or the formative nature of any extracurricular activities (i.e. athletics, outreach activities, clubs, etc.) that may have had an impact on your intellectual development. (If you are applying to the PhD program but

would like to be considered for the MA in the event that a PhD spot is unavailable, please also indicate that here.)

2. Transcript(s)
3. TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

1. Letters of Recommendation (3)
2. Academic CV
3. Writing Sample: A single sample of critical writing of approximately 12-20 pages. While we encourage you to submit your best writing sample, we prefer a writing sample in your declared field of interest. The writing sample should include an updated works cited page to help us evaluate your critical and theoretical familiarity with a field, a period or a genre. (Uploaded to the Upload Requirements section of the application).
4. In addition to fulfilling Graduate School requirements, applicants to the M.A. degree program should present a 3.5 GPA in English and 24 hours of upper-level English courses. Applicants to the Ph.D. degree program should present at least a 3.7 GPA and a B.A. degree, normally in English Language and Literature. All M.A. and Ph.D. applicants should submit a single critical writing sample of 12-20 pages as indicated on the application guidelines. We do not require the GRE for admission to our program. For best consideration, complete applications for all degree programs should be submitted by Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Applications are not accepted after December 3. The Admissions Committee will begin reviewing applications immediately. Admission is for the Fall semester only.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website: www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 2, 2025
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 2, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.english.umd.edu>

Application Process: <https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions> (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- English Language and Literature, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/english-language-literature-engl/english-language-literature-phd/>)
- English Language and Literature, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/english-language-literature-engl/english-language-literature-ma/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Resources for research in the College Park and Washington, D.C. area are unsurpassed. The university's libraries hold over 2,000,000 volumes. In addition to the outstanding holdings of the Library of Congress, the area also offers the specialized resources of the Folger Shakespeare Library, Dumbarton Oaks, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Center for the Study of the Visual Arts among others

UMCP is a member of the Consortium of Institutions in the Washington area, which permits graduate students at College Park to enroll in courses at other universities for graduate credit at UMCP. Graduate students in English also may take courses for graduate credit at the Folger Institute, which runs a series of seminars by distinguished scholars each year.