**English program**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** January 1

Fall admission only

**Minimum Total Hours:** 33

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 23.0101

**Dept. Code:** ENG

**Program (Major/College):** ENG AS

**Approved:** 1967

**Concentrations:**

Literature (LIT)

Rhetoric and Composition (RAC)

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Arts and Sciences

**Department:** English

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The MA in English with a concentration in Literature is a continuation of the BA with greater depth in literary knowledge and an introduction and implementation of methods, standards, and conventions of scholarship on literature. It is a generalist degree with broad-based distribution requirements, but it has the flexibility to study cutting-edge theories and newly emerging fields of interests (including cultural and comparative studies, ethnic literatures, and genre studies such as film). The program will conclude with a portfolio of two essays of 5000-6000 words each and an oral defense.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

**Major Research Areas:** n/a

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* B.A. in English
* A competitive Verbal aptitude score on the GRE general test, with a target Analytical Writing score of 4.0 (while the Quantitative score is not a determining factor in our admission decisions, both the Verbal and Quantitative score are factors in some university scholarships and fellowships)
* Undergraduate GPA 3.50
* Three (3) letters of recommendation
* Scholarly writing sample of approximately 2500 words (ten double-spaced pages) excluding bibliography or works cited; applicants may excerpt from a longer essay. Generally the committee seeks to review academic writing from an English course.
* A two-to-three page personal statement describing the student’s background, purpose for attending graduate studies, and career goals

All supplementary application materials (i.e. statement, writing sample, and letters), may be submitted electronically through the online application or may be submitted directly to the department at the following address:

Graduate Director

Department of English

University of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Ave., CPR 107

Tampa, FL 33620-5550

All materials, including GRE scores and transcripts, must be received by the application deadline in order for students to be considered for admission. Graduates of USF do not need to order official transcripts. Applications are reviewed by an admissions committee after the deadline. Students will be notified by mail of the admissions decision within four to six weeks after the deadline.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Minimum Program Hours 33 Credit Hours**

**Core Requirements – 3 hours**

**Literature Concentration – 27 hours OR Rhetoric Concentration – 36 hours**

**CORE REQUIREMENTS - 3 hours**

ENG 6009 3 Introduction to Graduate Studies *(this should be taken in the first semester of coursework)*

**CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS:**

In addition to the core requirements, students must complete the requirements below for the selected concentration:

**Literature Concentration - 27 hours**

**Requirements - 3 credits**

ENG 6018 3 Studies in Criticism and Theory I

**OR**

ENG 6019 3 Studies in Criticism and Theory II

**Historical Distribution\*- 12 credits**

**Four courses chosen from the following:**

1 Medieval or Renaissance (including 17th Century)

ENL 6206 3 Studies in Old English

ENL 6216 3 Studies in Middle English

ENL 6226 3 Studies in Sixteenth-Century British Literature

ENL 6228 3 Studies in Seventeenth-Century British Literature

1 18th Century (Either British tradition or Literature of the Americas)

AML 6017 3 Studies in American Literature to 1860

ENL 6236 3 Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Literature

1 19th Century (Either British tradition or Literature of the Americas):

AML 6017 3 Studies in American Literature to 1860

AML 6018 3 Studies in American Literature to 1860j to 1920

ENL 6246 3 Studies of the English Romantic Period

ENL 6256 3 Studies in Victorian Literature

1 20th Century (Either British traditions or Literature of the Americas):

AML 6027 3 Studies in Modern American Literature

ENL 6276 3 Studies in Modern British Literature

LIT 6096 3 Studies in Contemporary Literature

**Cultural & Critical Studies\* - 6 credits**

Two courses in ethnic literature (including African-American, Latino/a, post-colonial),

world literature, women’s literature or gender studies, critical theory, film, or genre

AML 6608 3 Studies in African American Literature

ENG 6018 3 Studies in Criticism and Theory I

ENG 6019 3 Studies in Criticism and Theory II

ENG 6067 3 History of the English Language

LIT 6934 1-6 Selected Topics in English Studies

Or other courses as approved by the Graduate Director

*\*Of the six courses in Historical Distribution and Cultural-Critical Studies, two must be from British traditions and two from American Traditions.*

**Electives - 6 credits**

Students taking ENC 6745 Teaching Practicum must use this as an elective if they count it toward the 33 credits in the degree. No CRW courses will be allowed in the literature track. Only one practicum will be allowed to satisfy degree requirements (including ENC 6745). One Directed Study may be used to substitute for degree requirement with the approval of the Graduate Director.

**Portfolio and Defense - 3 credits**

Three directed study hours to prepare portfolio. In their fourth and final semester (excluding summer terms), MA students will submit a portfolio for review to a two-member faculty committee six weeks prior to the Office of Graduate Studies deadline for thesis/dissertation submission. Upon submission, the student and chair of the committee will establish a defense date with the Graduate Program Specialist.

The portfolio will contain the following:

* An introductory first-person essay in which the student offers a self-evaluation of the contents of the portfolio and how it reflects his or her own process of revision, intellectual growth, plans for publication/dissemination, and professional development (minimum five pages, not to exceed fifteen).
* Two revised seminar papers 5000-6000 words in length, including appropriate MLA or Chicago Style documentation.
  + Papers should be developed under the direction of two different faculty members from the English Department, who then will form the committee for the defense. One member of the committee will serve as the chair, who will coordinate the circulation of the portfolio, the scheduling of the defense, and the submission of evaluation forms to the graduate director within specified deadlines.

The portfolio will be reviewed and evaluated by this two-member faculty committee using the published assessment rubric.

Members of the portfolio committee will be asked to work with the student to revise the papers she/he wrote for class. The goal is to get the papers into a form that might reasonably be published.

Because this option is not a thesis, it does not have to be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies, and so it does not need to adhere to the Office of Graduate Studies deadlines. Defenses should be concluded two weeks before the end of classes. The whole portfolio, along with the revised papers and the introductory essay, should be circulated two weeks prior to the defense, to give committee members an opportunity to read it through.

Each portfolio paper will be scored on an overall basis using the rubric at the end of the handbook.

To earn an overall score of pass, the following conditions must be met: each of the two papers must be rated *at least* a pass. In addition, the introductory essay must be rated *at leas*t a pass in order for the overall portfolio to be deemed passing.

To earn an overall score of pass with distinction, the following conditions must be met: *both* of the papers must be rated pass-plus. In addition, the introduction must be rated *at least* a pass in order for the overall portfolio to merit a pass with distinction. The overall rating of pass with distinction will be noted in the student’s file and can be referenced on a student’s CV.

A deficiency is awarded if the following conditions apply: if any one element of the portfolio (paper one, paper two, or the introductory essay) is rated pass-minus, the portfolio is considered deficient, and the low-scoring element will require revision. Individual faculty need to specify in writing what revisions are required in order to pass. Students will have the opportunity to revise during the remaining time of the semester; the revised element (paper or introductory essay) needs to be submitted to both committee members for approval no later than the last day of class for the semester. No second defense is required. Students who fail to revise appropriately before the end of the semester will be put on academic probation and will be required to submit a final, acceptable revision the following semester (excluding summer unless faculty agree to serve during the summer).

A portfolio fails if the either of the following conditions apply: (a) *two* elements (paper one, paper two, or introductory essay) are rated pass-minus OR (b) any one element in the portfolio (paper one, paper two, or introductory essay) is rated fail. Students who fail will automatically be put on academic probation and given the opportunity to revise papers so that the portfolio reaches a minimum overall rating of pass (with all three elements each rating *at least* a pass) the following semester (excluding summer unless faculty agree to serve during the summer). A failed portfolio requires a second defense after revision, and the committee will determine if it passes or fails (no deficiencies or distinctions may be awarded). If the portfolio fails after the second defense the student will be academically dismissed from the program.

Graduate Assistants on probation in the initial term maintain eligibility for an assistantship. If probationary status is not removed, the student can be removed from assistantship and academically dismissed from the program.

**Oral Defense**

The committee chair convenes a meeting with the committee and student for 30 minutes; this oral examination provides the opportunity for faculty to question the student on various aspects of the portfolio, and it gives the student the opportunity to expand upon and refine ideas represented in writing. The defense also provides an opportunity for further suggestions on publication and revision. After 30 minutes, the committee will convene without the student to discuss a final assessment for the portfolio using the published rubric.

**Rhetoric and Composition Concentration -33 hours**

**Requirements - 12 credits**

ENC 6700 3 Studies in Composition Theory

ENC 6720 3 Studies in Composition Research

ENC 6421 3 Studies in Rhetoric and Technology

ENC 6336 3 Studies in the History of Rhetoric

**Electives - 15 credits**

Three (3) electives within Literature or Rhetoric and Composition from the following (9 credit hours):

ENC 3 Advanced Technical Writing

ENC 6261 3 Professional and Technical Communication

ENC 6333 3 Contemporary Rhetorics

ENC 6422 3 New Media Production

ENC 6740 3 Theory and Development of Writing Programs

LAE 6375 3 Contemporary Composition Studies

Two additional electives in English or outside department, related to course of study (6 credit hours)

**Thesis - 6 credits minimum**

ENG 6971 6 Thesis or Portfolio: Master’s

MA Thesis or Portfolio on a Rhetoric and Composition subject plus an oral defense

The M.A. thesis – 40-50 pages, typed body in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced – should be based on student’s specialization in Rhetoric and Composition. This manuscript can be a revision and extension of a course paper or conference paper. It must contribute to the discipline by advancing scholarly discussions in Rhetoric and Composition studies and offering new knowledge.

MA students may submit portfolios in lieu of traditional theses. Variable portfolio contents will be determined in concert with candidates’ professional goals. Portfolio contents will range from 40-50 pages or equivalent (excluding works cited).

**Comprehensive Exam**

Students in the Literature Concentration complete a capstone requirement/portfolio, including an oral defense, in lieu of a comprehensive exam. For students in the Rhetoric and Composition Concentration, the thesis defense serves in lieu of a comprehensive exam.

**Graduate Certificate Program**

For information on Graduate Certificates please visit <http://www.outreach.usf.edu/gradcerts/>

English Graduate Certificates Offered:

Creative Writing – Contact Professor Rita Ciresi at [rciresi@usf.edu](mailto:rciresi@usf.edu)

Comparative and Interdisciplinary Literary Studies – Contact Dr. Susan Mooney at [smooney@usf.edu](mailto:smooney@usf.edu)

Teaching Composition – Contact Dr. Debra Jacobs at [djacobs@usf.edu](mailto:djacobs@usf.edu)

Professional & Technical Communication – Contact Dr. Meredith Zoetewey at zoetewey@usf.edu

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>