ENGLISH, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English

head of department: Bob Markley
director of graduate studies: Andrew Gaedtke
overview of graduate college admissions & requirements: Graduate Admissions (https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/)
overview of department admissions & requirements: https://english.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate-admission/
department website: http://www.english.illinois.edu
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
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The Department of English offers programs of study leading to the Master of Arts and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. We welcome qualified students who wish to pursue their interests in English, American, and Anglophone language, literature and film beyond the undergraduate level.

The Ph.D. program is, in general, designed to educate and train teacher-scholars who will take positions in colleges and universities throughout the country. We consider the Master of Arts program to be the first step toward the Ph.D. degree; we expect students admitted to the M.A. program to receive the M.A. and go on to complete a Ph.D. We therefore do not offer a formal terminal M.A. program.

Both the M.A. and Ph.D. may be earned with a specialization in Writing Studies. Also, doctoral students specializing in other fields may earn a graduate concentration in Writing Studies.

Graduate Degree Programs in English

English, MA (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/english-ma/)
  concentration: Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/)

English, PhD (p. 1)
  concentration: Medieval Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/medieval-studies/) Writing Studies (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/concentration/writing-studies/)

for information on the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) program in Creative Writing, see Creative Writing (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/las/creative-writing-mfa/).

Affiliated Programs offering certificates or minors:
  • Department of African American Studies
  • Asian American Studies Program
  • American Indian Studies
  • Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies
  • Gender and Women's Studies Program
  • The Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies Initiative
  • Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities
  • Latina-Latino Studies Program
  • The Program in Jewish Culture and Society
  • Unit for Cinema Studies
  • Unit for Criticism and Theory

Admission

A student who wishes to be considered for admission to graduate studies in English must present the equivalent of at least 20 semester hours of undergraduate work in English and American literature, excluding required work in rhetoric or composition. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required for those applying for the Literary Studies and Writing Studies programs. The GRE subject test for literature in English is not required.

For the 2021-2022 application season, the English Department is not requiring the GRE general test, and such scores will not be considered by the readers of applications in their deliberations. All applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores. Currently, a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based test (213 on the computer-based test) is required. Before a teaching assistantship involving classroom instruction or student consultation can be awarded to a non-native speaker of English, the applicant must take the Test of Spoken English (TSE) and achieve a score of 50 or higher (230 or higher before 1996). Because applications for admission usually far exceed capacity, in recent years undergraduate grade point averages of students admitted have been significantly higher than the 3.0 (A = 4.0) required by the Graduate College. The committee on admissions tends to select those applicants who have a solid array of undergraduate courses, knowledge of a foreign language, strong recommendations, and a compelling writing sample: in short, an academic record that shows promise of doing outstanding
work in the field and earning degrees within a reasonable time. We do not admit part-time students. Applicants are considered only in spring for fall admission, and the deadline for submitting applications is noon on December 2nd.

**Graduate Teaching Experience**
Experience in teaching is considered a vital part of the graduate program and all M.A. and Ph.D. candidates will have ample opportunity to teach undergraduate writing classes.

**Financial Aid**
Financial aid is available to students in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and waivers of tuition and service fees. For complete information about the program, prospective applicants should consult our website at [https://english.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate-admission/](https://english.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate-admission/) or write to the above address.