

ENGLISH

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

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DEGREES OFFERED: BA, MA, PHD

The undergraduate program offers opportunities for students to explore and appreciate it critically, while improving their expository writing skills. The department also offers a variety of courses in creative writing, including poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. In addition, it is home to the Theatre Program, which offers courses in theatre and dramatic literature. The graduate program in English offers concentrations in all fields of British and American literature and literary theory.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR BA IN ENGLISH

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 20–23). Students majoring in English must complete 36 semester hours in English with at least 24 hours in courses at the 300 level or above. A double major requires 30 hours in English with at least 18 hours in the upper-level courses. HUMA 101 and 102 may be counted toward the English major. All English majors must take the following:

- ENGL 200 *Seminar in Literature and Literary Analysis*
- ENGL 300 *Practices in Literary Study*
- 9 hours at the 300 level or above in periods before 1900 A.D.; 6 of the 9 hours must be in periods before 1800 A.D., but only one may be a Shakespearean course

- 3 hours at the 200 level or above in a course that focuses on noncanonical traditions, such as courses in women, African American, Chicano/a, Asian American, ethnic, global, and diasporic writers.

The department recommends that all English majors take courses in British and American history and, if they plan to do graduate work, at least 6 hours of upper-level courses in a foreign language.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MA AND PHD IN ENGLISH

For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 57–58). As part of their training, graduate students participate in both the teaching and research activities of the department. Upon entering, students will be assigned a Program Advisory Committee (PAC), consisting of two or three faculty members. In consultation with their PAC, students will design their own individualized program structured by the minimal requirements listed below. For more detailed information, please ask for a copy of the Department's *Program Outline*.

MA Program—The English department does not have an MA program, but offers the MA degree to those PhD students who have achieved candidacy and are in the process of completing their doctorate and to qualified PhD students who leave the program before completing their doctorate. To receive an MA students must:

- Satisfactorily complete at least 30 hours of graduate work in English at Rice University. Courses must be those that count towards the PhD in English. These include courses numbered in the 500s and 600s in the English department excluding 510, 601/602, 603/604; up to 2 approved graduate or equivalent courses taken in other departments; and up to 2 approved courses in the English department numbered 400 and above. Students must satisfactorily complete ENGL 600 and distribution requirements for the PhD (see below).
- Satisfactorily complete two teaching assistantships (ENGL 601/602). These do not count toward the 30-hour requirement.

PhD Program—To gain admission to PhD candidacy, students must satisfy the first seven of the following requirements, and they must receive approval for their dissertation prospectus from the Department's Graduate Committee. To earn a PhD in English, candidates must also complete the last 2 requirements. Students must:

1. Satisfactorily complete at least 33 hours of course work plus ENGL 510, exclusive of the thesis. Courses can include: graduate courses in the English department numbered 500 to 600, excluding 510, 601/602, 603/604; up to 2 approved undergraduate courses in the English department; and up to 2 approved courses in another department.
2. Satisfactorily complete the following 2 required courses: ENGL 600 *Professional Methods*, and ENGL 605 *Third-Year Writing Workshop*. These count toward the 33-hour requirement.
3. Satisfactorily complete the distribution requirement, which consists of 2 approved courses on literature before 1800 and 2 after 1800. These count toward the 33-hour requirement.
4. Satisfactorily complete the teaching requirement by serving twice as a teaching assistant, by completing ENGL 510/511 *Pedagogy*, and by teaching a lower-level course designed in conjunction with the instructor of ENGL 510. ENGL 510 does not count toward the 33-hour requirement.
5. Pass a six-hour written preliminary examination focusing on two lists of books: one representing the full range of a literary period as defined by the student and his or her preliminary committee, the other representing a second literary period, a single author, a genre traced over a period of time more

comprehensive than that covered by the first list, or a particular theoretical or critical approach studied with reference to its own history and traditions as well as to the historical field of the first exam.

6. Complete a dissertation prospectus that proposes a topic and an approach, offers a context to the topic in terms of work already done, offers an outline of chapters or sections, and includes a substantial bibliography.
7. Complete a dissertation that demonstrates a capacity for independent and original work of high quality.
8. Pass an oral exam on the dissertation and related fields of study.

Financial Support—Within the limits of available funds, qualified students may receive graduate scholarships or fellowships for up to five years. To qualify for this continuing financial aid, students must be approved for candidacy for the PhD by the beginning of their ninth semester at Rice (fifth semester for those entering with an MA).

See ENGL and THEA in the Courses of Instruction section.