English, MA

Hone your creative, analytical and critical thinking skills in preparation for a career in fields ranging from advertising to advocacy through thought-provoking classes in literature, writing, digital literacies, rhetoric, cultural studies, film analysis, linguistics and education taught by ASU’s distinguished faculty. The program is delivered primarily face-to-face with one track available online.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA English
The MA program in English allows for a variety of transdisciplinary studies within five distinct tracks:

Comparative literature --- Students interpret cultural productions in English and at least one other language, and they explore approaches ranging from textual criticism, critical theory and translation to cultural studies and the social sciences.

Creative writing -- Students in the accelerated BA/MA creative writing track strengthen their artistic practice by participating in intensive creative writing workshops in either fiction or poetry, alongside the study of contemporary literature and innovative creative techniques.

English studies --- Students in this track learn how to interpret and articulate complex cultural, historical, literary and language related ideas into accessible material for general audiences through a series of courses from across disciplinary areas of study.

Literature --- Students develop and hone skills in oral presentation, writing and critical thinking while exploring social, historical and cultural contexts.

Writing, rhetorics and literacies --- This program offers students a wide array of courses encompassing the history, theory and practice of rhetoric and pedagogy of writing.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus or online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- **English (Creative Writing), BA**
- **English (Literature), BA**
- **English (Writing, Rhetorics and Literacies), BA**

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including the required applied project course (ENG 593 or LIN 593) and a foreign language exam, or
30 credit hours including the required capstone course (ENG 597) and a foreign language exam, or
30 credit hours, a thesis and a foreign language exam

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**

ENG 501 Approaches to Research (3)

A student may pursue a track in comparative literature, English studies, literature, or writing, rhetorics and literacies. The creative writing track is available only for students in the accelerated BA/MA creative writing track program. All tracks have a foreign language requirement.

**Comparative Literature Track**

one course in concept and methods (course in comparative literature, criticism or translation)
four courses in a language other than English
electives

**Creative Writing Track**

ENG 594 Conference and Workshop: Fiction (3) or
ENG 594 Conference and Workshop: Poetry (3)
ENG 538 Studies in Modern and Contemporary American Literature (3) or
ENG 539 Studies in Modernist and Postmodernist Literature and Theory (3)
electives or research courses
ENG 584 Internship (3)
**English Studies Track**
- one course in linguistics
- one course in literature
- one course in writing, rhetorics and literacies
- one course in English education
- electives or research courses

**Literature Track**
- one course in literary theory
- a distribution requirement
- electives
- two courses selected must be graduate seminars at the 600 level

**Writing, Rhetorics and Literacies Track**
- one course in composition theory
- one course in rhetoric theory
- electives, which must include six credit hours of graduate seminars at the 600 level

**Culminating Experience (3 or 6 credit hours)**
- ENG 593 Applied Project (3) or
- ENG 597 Graduate Capstone Seminar (3) or
- ENG 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students should see the academic unit for an approved course list.

The capstone culminating experience option is available to students in the English studies track only. Students in this track must take the capstone. Students in one of the other tracks may select an applied project or thesis for the culminating experience.

**Admission Requirements**
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00= "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00= "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. three letters of recommendation
6. academic writing sample relevant to the field
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details about English proficiency requirements.

Applicants for the master's degree program in English with a track in comparative literature must prove fluency in a foreign language to a level sufficient for graduate study. The one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should detail the applicant's background, reasons for wanting to do graduate work in comparative literature, and plans for the future.

Applicants for the master's degree program in English with a track in creative writing must be undergraduate students in the creative writing concentration at ASU and approved to enter the accelerated program. The one- to two-page statement of purpose should detail the applicant's background, reasons for wanting to do graduate work in creative writing, and their plans for the future.

Applicants for the master's degree program in English with a track in English studies (the online program) are required to submit two academic or professional letters of recommendation; a third recommendation is optional. An academic writing sample is not required. The two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should explain how the applicant's academic and professional interests fit with the English studies track of the Master of Arts in English. Applicants with undergraduate majors in English, foreign language, history, philosophy, liberal studies or other areas in humanities are considered.

Applicants for the master's degree program in English with a track in literature are required to have an undergraduate major in English. Those who do not have a major in English are encouraged to register as nondegree students while they take supplementary courses, as identified by the advisor. The one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should detail the applicant's background, reasons for wanting to do graduate work in literature, and plans for the future.

Applicants for the master's degree program in English with a track in writing, rhetorics and literacies may have undergraduate majors in fields such as, but not limited to, anthropology, cognitive science, communication, comparative languages and literatures, education, English literature, history, law, modern languages, philosophy, political science, psychology, religion, rhetoric or composition, sociology, or speech and hearing science. The one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should detail the applicant's background, reasons for wanting to do graduate work in writing, rhetorics and literacies, and plans for the future.

Attend Online
ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

**Application Deadlines**

*Fall*

*Spring*

*Summer*

**Career Opportunities**

Professionals with expertise in all areas of English studies are able to articulate and translate complex ideas for a general audience and are prepared for career opportunities in public humanities, business, digital media, teaching, museums, nonprofits and arts organizations. In addition, the program nurtures concrete skills in writing, oral presentation and critical thinking that are valuable assets for any career.

Career examples include:

- author
- communications director
- copywriter
- editor
- human resources specialist
- instructor
- market research analyst
- library or museum administrator
- publisher
- social media manager
- technical writer

**Contact Information**

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[enggrad@asu.edu](mailto:enggrad@asu.edu) | 480-965-3194  
[Admission Deadlines](#)