English (Literature), PhD

ASU's English department boasts an internationally recognized faculty with expertise across historical, geographic and theoretical boundaries. Offering a flexible, interdisciplinary curriculum, a strong mentoring program, and a variety of internships and professional development opportunities, this doctoral program prepares students for entry into academia as well as a variety of careers.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD English (Literature)

The PhD program in English with a concentration in literature promotes the study of the production, distribution and reception of texts; of their linguistic, rhetorical and literary structures and functions; and of the internal and external forces shaping literature. The program offers courses that examine chronology and genre while also considering the importance of embodiment. Many courses explore issues relating to gender, class, race and ethnicity. The program prepares students for entrance into the profession as teachers and scholars.

At a Glance

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

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a foreign language exam, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation
A student with an appropriate master's degree must complete a minimum of 54 credit hours of approved graduate work, which includes 12 credit hours of dissertation, provided the student's master's degree is accepted by the supervisory committee and the academic unit. Research hours may be used toward coursework in consultation with the advisor.

A student without an appropriate master's degree must complete 84 credit hours of work at ASU. At the advisor's discretion, students may include up to 12 credit hours of appropriate, graduate-level coursework undertaken at another university and not previously counted toward any other degree.

Specifically required are six credit hours in theory courses and ENG 501 Approaches to Research. Students must complete eight graduate courses in any of the following categories:

- cultural studies
- ethnic studies
- gender studies
- genre
- history and structure of the English language
- literature 1500-1660
- literature 1660-1900
- literature since 1900
- literature to 1500
- postcolonial or anglophone literatures

Students must take at least five graduate seminars at the 600 level en route to the doctorate, at least three of which must be taken in the doctoral program. Up to 12 credit hours taken outside the department may be counted toward the degree. Students should consult with their supervisory committees when choosing electives.

**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 of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00= "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.50 cumulative GPA (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. GRE general test scores
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details about English proficiency requirements.
https://english.clas.asu.edu/admission/graduate-admission/how-to-apply/information-international-students

The well-considered, one- to two-page, single-spaced statement of purpose should explain how the applicant's experience and training have prepared him or her for the program as well as the purpose for pursuing the doctorate. Applicants applying for funding must also submit a statement of teaching philosophy. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details.

Application Deadlines

Contact Information

Department of English | RBHL 125
enggrad@asu.edu | 480-965-3194
Admission Deadlines