The English Graduate Program offers a thorough grounding in literary history and theory in preparation for advanced work at the doctoral level, careers in secondary or community college teaching, and other professional opportunities. The program grants the Master of Arts (MA) degree, and in conjunction with the School of Education, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree, a joint MA/MAT degree, and the Master of Science in Teaching (MSEd) degree.

The Program

Students follow a structured plan of study comprising 30 credits of coursework in English for the MA, 12 credits in English for the MAT, and 15 credits in English for the MSEd. To accommodate part-time students, most graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon or evening.

Admission Requirements

The entrance requirements for the Master of Arts Program in English (204) are

- One official copy of a baccalaureate transcript from a regionally accredited institution with at least 36 credits in English, exclusive of freshman composition. (Applicants who present fewer than 36 undergraduate credits in English may remedy this deficiency by taking additional courses as recommended by the English graduate committee.)
- A 3.0 overall cumulative undergraduate grade point average. (Applicants whose undergraduate grade point average in English is less than 3.0 may be admitted on the basis of GRE scores.)
- A sample of the applicant’s critical writing, either one or two essays totaling about 10 pages in length.
- International applicants must provide an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 85. GREs are recommended.
Application Procedures

Students may select to apply online or via paper application. The English department begins reviewing applications in the fall semester on March 1st and for the spring semester on October 1st. Late applications may be considered; however, applicants should contact the graduate coordinator before submitting their application.

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in one complete packet:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes
5. Academic Writing Sample (totaling 10 pages).

If you have questions about the application process or the programs offered, please contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

Program Requirements

- Complete prescribed course work within seven years after matriculation.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, with no more than two grades below B-.
- Satisfactory performance on the English Department’s comprehensive examination.

Curriculum Requirements (30 credits)

No more than six credits may be transferred from another institution. No more than six credits taken before admission to the MA program may be credited to the degree.

The curriculum requirements for the Masters of Arts in English are

- The English Proseminar (ENG500), generally taken in the first semester.
- At least one course in pre-early modern literature and/or language, such as ENG501, ENG502, ENG 503, ENG527, and when appropriate, ENG 572 (consult the Graduate Director for direction regarding this course requirement).
- At least one course in Shakespeare (ENG505 or ENG574).
- One other course from the periods before 1800, for which a second Shakespeare course may be counted.
- Three courses from the periods after 1800.
- One course in literary criticism (ENG550, ENG555, or ENG585).
Assistantships
Teaching Assistantships are available for students in the MA program. The Assistantship pays a stipend plus tuition for two graduate English courses per semester; recipients of the Assistantship teach one section of Composition and enroll in two graduate English courses per semester. Teaching Assistants are supported through a maximum of 33 credits. Modern Theories of Writing, ENG515, is required and is usually taken in the first semester of the Assistantship. Application is made through the English Department office.

A limited number of other stipendiary positions are sometimes available within the English Department and elsewhere on campus. Check regularly with the English Department to learn of these opportunities.

For course descriptions, please click COURSES.