

ENGLISH, MA

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	24 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School's Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.5 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).

Other Grade Requirements Grades of BC or lower cannot be used to meet an English Course Requirement. A student who fails to meet the GPA requirement requirement may be reviewed for Satisfactory progress or placed on Departmental Probation.

Assessments and Examinations Students admitted to the terminal MA pathway Applied English Linguistics, prior to Fall 2025 will be required to complete a final comprehensive exam.

Language Requirements Demonstrate proof of adequate competency in one non-English language by the time of MA degree completion. PhD students will complete an additional language requirement(s), see PhD requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Students completing the MA pathway should refer to the PhD (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/english-phd/#requirements>) for more information on requirements.

English Language and Linguistics Pathway (previously Applied English Linguistics)^{1,2}

These requirements must be completed before the beginning of the fifth semester. When the first stage requirements are completed, provided the student meets the program standards for satisfactory progress, they will be entitled to move into the second stage of the PhD program.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ENGL 314	Structure of English	3
ENGL 315	English Phonology	3
ENGL 514	English Syntax	3
ENGL 516	English Grammar in Use	3
Electives		
Students must complete 18 credits, including 6 credits numbered 700 to 799 and 3 credits numbered 900 to 999.		18
ENGL 316	English Language Variation in the U.S.	
ENGL 318	Second Language Acquisition	
ENGL 413	English Words: Grammar, Culture, Mind	
ENGL 414	Global Spread of English	
ENGL 416	English in Society	
ENGL 417	History of the English Language	
ENGL 420	Topics in English Language and Linguistics	
ENGL/MEDIEVAL 520	Old English	
ENGL 709	Advanced English Phonology	
ENGL 711	Research Methods in Applied Linguistics	
ENGL 713	Topics in Contemporary English Linguistics	
ENGL 715	Advanced Second Language Acquisition	
ENGL 905	Seminar-Topics in Applied English Linguistics	
ENGL 906	Seminar-The English Language	

Total Credits

30

- ¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.
- ² The MA pathway, English Language and Linguistics, is effective for students admitted Fall 2025 and after. Students admitted to the terminal MA pathway, Applied English Linguistics, prior to Fall 2025 will adhere to the same curricular requirements with the addition of the final comprehensive exam. The MA pathway in Applied English Linguistics will discontinue with the current cohort and those admitted to the pathway starting Fall 2024.

Literary Studies Pathway ¹

All courses for this pathway must be completed in English (ENGL (<https://guide.wisc.edu/courses/eng/>)) graduate level courses as specified below. Students take a total of ten courses in the Department of English. To ensure breadth of knowledge, the course requirements call for intensive study in different chronological and geographical areas.

These requirements must be completed before the beginning of the fifth semester. When the first stage requirements are completed, provided the student meets the program standards for satisfactory progress, they will be entitled to move into the second stage of the PhD program.

Note: A maximum of 9 credits of this MA and/or PhD coursework may come from UW programs or departments outside of English.

Code	Title	Credits
Literature		
Students must complete 6 credits of literature in the English Department, including one pre-1800 course and one post-1800 course.		6
<i>Pre-1800 Course Options</i>		
ENGL 720	Seminar in Early Modern Studies	
ENGL/ THEATRE 731	Advanced Theatre History 500 BC to 1700	
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 803	Topics in Medieval Literature	
ENGL 804	Topics in Early Modern Literature	
ENGL 805	Topics in Eighteenth-Century Literature	
ENGL 810	Topics in Early American Literature	
<i>Post-1800 Course Options</i>		
ENGL/ THEATRE 732	Advanced Theatre History 1700 to Present	
ENGL/ GEN&WS 737	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGL 806	Topics in Romanticism	
ENGL 807	Topics in Victorian Literature and Culture	
ENGL 808	Topics in Modernism	
ENGL 811	Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 812	Topics in American Literature since 1900	
ENGL 813	World and/or Postcolonial Literature in English	
ENGL 814	Topics in Contemporary Literature	

Literary Studies		
Students must complete the following course during their first semester.		
ENGL 800	Critical Methods in Literary Studies	3
Composition		
Students must complete one of the following courses.		
ENGL 700	Introduction to Composition Studies	3
or ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 520	Old English	
Race, Ethnicity, and/or Indigeneity		
Students must complete at least 3 credits of a graduate-level course that focuses on topics of race, ethnicity, and/or indigeneity.		3
Elective Graduate Coursework		
Students must complete 15 credits of elective graduate coursework.		15
Total Credits		30

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Elective Graduate Coursework

Graduate Coursework in English reflects the faculty's current areas of research and therefore change importantly from year to year. Please consult the department website for more detailed information.