

ENGLISH, PHD

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	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	26 credits must be graduate-level coursework. 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

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	• Preliminary exam
	• Dissertation Prospectus Conference
	• Final Defense and dissertation submission

Language Requirements Demonstrate proof of competency in one non-English language by the time of PhD degree completion. Proof of competencies may include, coursework equivalent to third and fourth semesters of study; reading knowledge exam; language of a non-native English speaker, an additional tools/methods course (with advisor approval). Other language competency options may apply with the program area director/advisor approval. Students who earn an MA as part of the PhD degree will be required to have proof of two language competencies prior to dissertator status.

Graduate School Breadth Requirement All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/>).

Students are required to consult with their program faculty advisor.

REQUIRED COURSES

Each pathway has specific course requirements. Graduate seminar offerings in English reflect the faculty's current areas of research and therefore change importantly from year to year. Please consult the department website for more detailed information.

COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC PATHWAY ¹

All courses are chosen in consultation with the program's faculty advisor. Courses from outside the below course lists may apply with faculty advisor approval.

Code	Title	Credits
Composition Rhetoric Coursework Requirement		
Students must complete 18 credits from the following courses. Typically, one rhetoric-focused course and one composition/literacy focused course are available each semester.		18
ENGL 700	Introduction to Composition Studies	
ENGL 701	Writing and Learning ²	
ENGL 702	Perspectives on Literacy ²	
ENGL 703	Research Methods in Composition Studies ²	
ENGL 705	Intellectual Sources of Contemporary Composition Theory II-Modern	
ENGL 706	Special Topics in Composition Theory	
ENGL 722	Composition and Critical Theories	
Research Methods/Tool		

Students must complete 6 credits or two courses that focus explicitly on the problems and practice of research. An array of qualitative and quantitative research methods courses is offered in other programs and departments that may satisfy this requirement.

ENGL 701	Writing and Learning
ENGL 703	Research Methods in Composition Studies
ENGL 799	Independent Reading

Breadth

Courses are chosen by the student and the minor or graduate/professional certificate advisor in consultation with the student's program advisor. This requirement is completed prior to obtaining dissertator status.

Additional Coursework

To meet the minimum credit requirement, students complete additional coursework, including independent study and/or language or dissertator research credits, in consultation with the faculty advisor.

ENGL 890	Pre-Dissertator Preliminary Exam Research (may be taken for the first time in the semester in which students are completing the coursework and research/tool requirements.)
ENGL 990	Dissertation Research in English (Students with dissertator status enroll in 3 credits of ENGL 990 every term, until completion of the degree.)

Total Credits 51

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 This course may satisfy the Research Methods/Tools requirement but may not also satisfy the Comprehension Rhetoric requirement. This course may satisfy the Research Methods/Tools requirement but may not also satisfy the Comprehension Rhetoric requirement.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS PATHWAY¹

All courses must be approved by the program's faculty advisor. Courses outside of the below course lists may apply with faculty advisor approval. Students will earn an MA degree after the first two years of requirements are satisfied.

Code	Title	Credits
English Language and Linguistics Coursework		
Students must successfully complete the following courses within the first two years or by start of the fifth semester of program:		
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 complete courses from the "Elective Course Options" course list. Of the 18 elective credits, at least 6 credits must be numbered 700-799 and at least three credits in coursework numbered 900-999.

Graduate Specialization

In the third year, students work in an area or areas of specialization and begin to create an ongoing research agenda. Courework must be approved by consultation with the faculty advisor.

Breadth

Courses are chosen by the student and the minor or graduate/professional certificate advisor in consultation with the student's program advisor. This requirement is completed prior to obtaining dissertator status.

Research

Students complete from the following:		1-12
ENGL 890	Pre-Dissertator Preliminary Exam Research	

Students with dissertator status complete 3 credits of the following course every term up until degree completion.

ENGL 990	Dissertation Research in English
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Total Credits 51

Elective Course Options

Electives must be completed in the first two years of study.

Code	Title	Credits
ENGL 316	English Language Variation in the U.S.	
ENGL 318	Second Language Acquisition	
ENGL 319	Language, Race, and Identity	
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 514	English Syntax	
ENGL 516	English Grammar in Use	
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	

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LITERARY STUDIES PATHWAY¹

All courses are chosen in consultation with the program's faculty advisor. Courses outside of the below course lists may apply with faculty advisor approval. Students may request up to 9 credits of elective graduate courses or graduate seminars from outside the English dept. Courses may not fulfill two separate requirements.

The first 30 credits of coursework and one language requirement will be completed in the first two years or before the start of the fifth semester. Students will earn an MA degree after the first two years of requirements are satisfied.

Code	Title	Credits
Literature (pre-1800 and post-1800)		
Students must complete one pre-1800 and one post-1800 literature course in the English Department, numbered 700 or above.		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 the 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 additional graduate seminars.		15
Graduate Specialization Seminars		
Starting in the 3rd year, students work in an area or areas of specialization and begin to create an ongoing research agenda. Students must complete 9 credits of graduate courses or seminars approved by the program advisor.		9
Breadth		
Courses are chosen by the student and the minor or graduate/professional certificate advisor in consultation with the student's program advisor. This requirement is completed prior to obtaining dissertator status.		9-12
Research		
Students complete the following:		3-12
ENGL 890	Pre-Dissertator Preliminary Exam Research (In preparation for preliminary exams, students may enroll in Independent Reading for PhD Prelims in the semester in which they complete the English course requirements.)	
Students with dissertator status complete 3 credits every term until degree completion.		
ENGL 990	Dissertation Research in English	
Total Credits		51
Elective Graduate Course Options		
Code	Title	Credits
ENGL 314	Structure of English	3
ENGL 315	English Phonology	3
ENGL 316	English Language Variation in the U.S.	3
ENGL 318	Second Language Acquisition	3
ENGL 412	Bad Grammar and Metalinguistic Awareness	3
ENGL 413	English Words: Grammar, Culture, Mind	3
ENGL 414	Global Spread of English	3
ENGL 416	English in Society	3
ENGL 417	History of the English Language	3
ENGL 420	Topics in English Language and Linguistics	3
ENGL 422	Outstanding Figure(s) in Literature before 1800	3
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 425	Medieval Romance	3
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 426	Chaucers Courtly Poetry	3
ENGL/ASIAN AM/ GEN&WS 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	3
ENGL/ASIAN AM/ GEN&WS 464	Asian American Women Writers	3

ENGL/ASIAN 478	Indian Writers Abroad: Literature, Diaspora and Globalization	3	ENGL 805	Topics in Eighteenth-Century Literature	3
ENGL 514	English Syntax	3	ENGL 806	Topics in Romanticism	3
ENGL 516	English Grammar in Use	3	ENGL 807	Topics in Victorian Literature and Culture	3
ENGL/MEDIEVAL 520	Old English	3	ENGL 808	Topics in Modernism	3
ENGL/MEDIEVAL 521	Advanced Old English Literature	3	ENGL 810	Topics in Early American Literature	3
ENGL 543	Discourses of Disability, Antiquity to 1800	3	ENGL 811	Topics in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture	3
ENGL/THEATRE 575	British Drama, 1914 to Present	3	ENGL 812	Topics in American Literature since 1900	3
ENGL/THEATRE 576	Survey: Theories of Drama	3	ENGL 813	World and/or Postcolonial Literature in English	3
ENGL/THEATRE 577	Postcolonial Theatre: Drama, Theory and Performance in the Global South	3	ENGL 814	Topics in Contemporary Literature	3
ENGL/THEATRE 578	Modern American Drama and Theatre	3	ENGL 816	Topics in Ethnic and Multicultural Literature	3
ENGL 651	Special Topics in Theatre and Performance Studies Research	3	ENGL 817	Seminar-American Literature	3
ENGL 653	Applied Theatre	3	ENGL 820	Topics in Poetry	3
ENGL 654	Dramaturgy in Theory and Practice	3	ENGL 822	Topics in Literary and Cultural Theory	3
ENGL 656	Theatre of the Avant-Garde, 1850-1950	3	ENGL 825	Topics in Literature and the Environment	3
ENGL/AFROAMER 672	Selected Topics in Afro-American Literature	3	ENGL 829	Topics in Migration and Diaspora	3
ENGL 700	Introduction to Composition Studies	3	ENGL 851	Advanced Studies In Theatre and Performance Studies Research	3
ENGL 701	Writing and Learning	3	ENGL 859	Seminar-Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies	2-3
ENGL 702	Perspectives on Literacy	3	ENGL 879	Advanced Seminar in Literary Studies	3
ENGL 703	Research Methods in Composition Studies	3			
ENGL 705	Intellectual Sources of Contemporary Composition Theory II-Modern	3			
ENGL 706	Special Topics in Composition Theory	3			
ENGL 709	Advanced English Phonology	3			
ENGL 711	Research Methods in Applied Linguistics	3			
ENGL 713	Topics in Contemporary English Linguistics	3			
ENGL 715	Advanced Second Language Acquisition	3			
ENGL 720	Seminar in Early Modern Studies	2			
ENGL 722	Composition and Critical Theories	3			
ENGL/THEATRE 731	Advanced Theatre History 500 BC to 1700	3			
ENGL/THEATRE 732	Advanced Theatre History 1700 to Present	3			
ENGL/GEN&WS 737	Feminist Theory and Criticism	3			
ENGL 795	One-credit Seminar	1			
ENGL/MEDIEVAL 803	Topics in Medieval Literature	3			
ENGL 804	Topics in Early Modern Literature	3			

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Additional Program Requirements

All students must complete the following requirements:

Preliminary Exam and Dissertator Status

Successful completion of all program course requirements, breadth coursework and language requirement to complete the preliminary exam. In preparation for preliminary exams, students may enroll in ENGL 890 Pre-Dissertator Preliminary Exam Research in the semester in which they complete the program course requirements. A student's dissertator status becomes effective the term after the they pass the exam. All students with dissertator status will enroll in exactly three credits of **ENGL 990 Dissertation Research in English** every required term (spring/fall) to degree completion; three credits is considered full time enrollment.

Dissertation Proposal Conference

Within six months after passing the prelim exam, each student must hold a Dissertation Proposal Conference. This consists of a meeting with the English Department faculty member who has agreed to direct their dissertation and two other faculty members who have agreed to serve on the dissertation committee. An approved dissertation proposal should follow as soon as possible, normally no later than a month after the conference.

Final Defense

A doctoral candidate writes a dissertation, with faculty guidance, representing original scholarly work of a high order and defends the dissertation.