



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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MASTER OF ARTS (MA) IN ENGLISH

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

If you are a lover of books, the MA in English program can enrich your reading experience by providing a structure and historical framework, insights and information shared by professors who are experts in their fields, and the opportunity for stimulating exchange of ideas in the classroom. If you are a writer interested in improving your skills, the MA in English program offers the opportunity to share your work with faculty and students, many of whom are published writers. If you are a licensed teacher of English whose professional advancement depends upon a graduate degree, the MA in English program offers an opportunity for advanced study and research in the field of literature. Successful completion of the program leads to fulfillment of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requirements for professional licensure to teach English at the secondary level. If you are interested in pursuing doctoral studies in language and literature, the MA in English program offers solid preparation in the field.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- A completed application form, available from the Graduate School Office or online, and a \$35.00 non-refundable application fee made payable to Salem State College.
- A official transcript documenting the award of a bachelor's degree with grades of merit from an accredited college or university in an arts and sciences major.
- Official transcripts of any graduate courses taken or degrees held.
- Three completed Reference for Graduate Admission forms. These forms are available with the application or online. Please include references from people who have known you in both professional and academic capacities. Completed reference forms may have a letter attached to them.
- An official copy of test results taken within the last five years, documenting satisfactory performance on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Those who already hold a master's degree are exempt from this requirement.
- All students for whom English is not a first language must submit satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- A 500-1,000-word double-spaced statement of purpose addressing the following questions:
What factors in your personal and professional history now lead you to seek admission to this program at Salem State College?
What are your long-term professional goals, and how will this program help you meet them?
Is there any other information that you think would help the admissions committee to evaluate your application?

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Rolling Admissions

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Upon acceptance into the program, you will complete a tentative Plan of Study in consultation with the program coordinator. You must request that any transfer credits be considered at this time. PLEASE NOTE THAT NO MORE THAN THREE COURSES TAKEN AT SALEM STATE COLLEGE BEFORE ADMISSION CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS THIS PROGRAM. You should meet regularly with the program coordinator to discuss your progress and revise your plan of study as needed.

All candidates for the MA in English (Options 1, 2, 3 and 4) must complete 1) a minimum of thirty-three or thirty-nine credit hours of graduate course work, including ENG 725, Research and Writing about Literature, and at least one graduate seminar, and 2) degree candidates must demonstrate proficiency either in one foreign language, or in computer science as it intersects with the field of literature, by one of the following options acceptable to the department graduate committee: a) proof of satisfactory completion of six (6) hours of undergraduate credit beyond the elementary level of a foreign language, b) a passing grade in a departmental reading language examination, c) demonstrated proficiency in linking literary studies with computer science through submission of samples of such work for approval by the committee.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

All candidates for the MA English program must complete the following:

1. ENG 725 Research and Writing about Literature
2. At least one graduate seminar
3. A capstone project or exam or two additional English electives
4. 33 total credit hours of graduate coursework or 39 total credits if choosing Option 4

Students in Option 1 - Literary Studies - must complete the following:

1. Twenty-seven credit hours of which must be from English graduate course offerings in Literature, including ENG 725 and at least one seminar.
2. Six credits may be taken in a related discipline such as history, theater arts, linguistics, philosophy or comparative literature, as approved by the program coordinator.
3. One of the three following capstone options:
 - Comprehensive examination covering four areas of study
 - A thesis (register for ENG 875 or 876 for three credits)
 - A portfolio drawn from program coursework (register for ENG 875 or 876 for three credits)

Students choosing the thesis or portfolio options will have both an advisor and a second reader reviewing their work. Students planning to continue to a doctoral program are strongly advised to choose the thesis option.

Students in Option 2 - Literary Studies with a Writing Concentration - must complete the following*:

*This option is only available after acceptance into the MA English program and approval or writing sample.

1. Twenty-one to twenty-four credit hours in graduate English courses including ENG 725 and at least one seminar course
2. Nine to twelve credit hours in writing courses
3. The capstone experience consisting of Comprehensive examination taken in two areas of study

AND

A manuscript in the student's major genre. The manuscript may be a group of poems, short stories, non-fiction articles, one-act plays, a novella, longer play or a novel.

Students in Option 3 - Writing with a Concentration in Literary Studies - must complete the following:

1. Eighteen credit hours in writing courses, including ENG 875 and at least two workshop courses in the major genre
2. Fifteen credit hours in graduate English courses including ENG 725 and at least one seminar course
3. The capstone experience, consisting of Written examination in one area of study

AND

A manuscript in the student's major genre. The manuscript may be a group of poems, short stories, non-fiction articles, one-act plays, a novella, longer play or a novel.

Additional information on any of the capstone options is available from the program coordinator.

Students in Option 4 - Non-Capstone Option - must complete the following:

The capstone experience is replaced with an additional six credits (two courses of English elective coursework), creating the option of a 39 credit program.

Directed Study: A degree candidate who has completed at least twenty-four credit hours may take up to two directed study courses of three credits each with program coordinator approval and when staffing conditions permit.

Subsequent to publication of this flowsheet, the Graduate School reserves the right to make changes in courses, program requirements, policies and regulations as circumstances dictate. There is no guarantee that any listed course will be offered in any given semester.
