



MASTER OF ARTS

ENGLISH

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

If you are a lover of books, the M.A. 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 looking to improve your skills, the M.A. in English program offers the opportunity to share your work with faculty and students, many of whom are published writers. If you are a teacher whose professional advancement depends upon a graduate degree, the M.A. 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 M.A. in English program offers solid preparation in the field.

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 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 M.A. in English (Options 1, 2 and 3) must:

1. Complete a minimum of thirty-three (33) credit hours of graduate course work, including ENG725, Research and Writing about Literature, and at least one graduate seminar.
2. 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

OPTION 1 – Literary Studies

1. Twenty-seven credit hours in English, 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 on to a doctoral program are strongly advised to choose the thesis option.

OPTION 2 - Literary Studies with a Writing Concentration

This option is only available after acceptance into the program and upon approval of a 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.

OPTION 3 – Writing with a Concentration in Literary Studies

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.

Total Credits for the Degree

33

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

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.