

MA in English

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** Applicants who intend to specialize in English Studies or English Education must have an undergraduate major in English or the equivalent that includes a balanced program in English and American literature beyond the level of sophomore surveys. Applicants who intend to specialize in Creative Writing may have an undergraduate major or a graduate degree in any field, if they show substantial evidence of ability to complete the work in literature required for the degree in English.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study and for all graduate work.
- **Tests Required** None, except in cases of English competency for some non-native speakers of English (see below).
- **Minimum English Competency Score**
 - **TOEFL iBT** 95, with minimum subscores of Reading 24, Listening 24, Speaking 24, and Writing 22, **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 7.0, with 6.5 in each of the four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required, preferably from individuals acquainted with the applicant's recent academic, professional, or creative work.
- **Statement of Purpose** Required.
 - Domestic applicants must submit a statement of about 500 words presenting their reasons for wanting to take graduate work in English at UIC and the relationship of this advanced training to professional and other goals.
 - International applicants must submit a two- or three-page summary of their educational experience that emphasizes their work in English and American literature and language. They should conclude this summary with their reasons for wanting to do graduate work in the English department.
- **Other Requirements**
 - **Coversheet:** All MA and PhD applicants must submit an [Application Review Coversheet](#) (.docx) with application materials.
 - **Writing sample:** All MA and PhD applicants must submit a sample of their written work.
 - Applicants for the specializations in English Studies and English Education should submit a sample of no more than 20 pages appropriate to their proposed area of study.
 - Applicants for Creative Writing (also known as the Program for Writers) must submit a sample of no more than 20 pages of material in genre of interest (at least five poems, one or more stories, a chapter from a novel, comparable work, etc.). Applicants for the Program for Writers must also submit an optional critical writing sample of no more than 20 pages.
 - **CV/Resume**
- **Deadlines** [Application deadlines](#) for this program are listed on the Graduate College website.

Additional information on the application process can be found on the [Department of English website](#) under Admissions.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32. Students can select from the department's 400-500 level course offerings.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
ENGL 500	Master's Proseminar	
ENGL 597	Master's Project Research in English	
Electives (24 hours)		
No more than 20 hours can be at the 400 level.		
No more than 8 hours can come from departments other than ENGL		
As part of their required 32 hours of course work, MA students specializing in Creative Writing and English Education have specific course work that must be taken. See below.		
No more than 4 hours of credit in ENGL 596 may be counted toward the degree.		

Creative Writing

As part of their required 32 hours of coursework, Creative Writing MA students take at least 12 and no more than 16 hours of creative writing workshops.

English Education

Code	Title	Hours
Requirements for Specialization		
As part of the 32 hours required for the MA degree, students must take the following courses:		
ENGL 557	Language and Literacy (as one of two Bridge Series courses)	
Select two of the following courses in Teaching Methods:		
ENGL 482	Campus Writing Consultants	
ENGL 486	The Teaching of Writing in Middle and Secondary Schools	
ENGL 488	Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools	
ENGL 487	The Teaching of Reading and Literature in Middle and Secondary Schools	
ENGL 555	Teaching College Writing	
One additional course in literature		
Two electives chosen with approval of the advisor		

- **Additional Requirements for Teacher Licensure:** Students who wish to seek teacher licensure must take additional courses in the College of Education and complete student teaching to be eligible for state licensure. Such students are also more restricted in their choices of courses within the specialization. Courses should be selected in consultation with an advisor. Contact the Department of English for the current requirements. At the time of this writing, in addition to the MA requirements and the requirements for the

specialization in English Education, students seeking licensure must complete additional courses.

Code	Title	Hours
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Additional Courses for Teacher Licensure

Complete the following English courses:

ENGL 486	The Teaching of Writing in Middle and Secondary Schools
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ENGL 487	The Teaching of Reading and Literature in Middle and Secondary Schools
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ENGL 488	Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools
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Complete the following education courses and student teaching program:

ED 402	Philosophy of Education and Urban School Policy
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or ED 403 Policy Issues in the History of American Education

ED 421	Advanced Educational Psychology
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or ED 445 Adolescence and the Schools

ED 432	Instruction and Assessment in the Urban Secondary Classroom (taken in conjunction with ENGL 481)
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SPED 410	Exceptional Learners
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ENGL 498	Educational Practice with Seminar I (student teaching with seminar)
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ENGL 499	Educational Practice with Seminar II (student teaching with seminar)
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- The teaching license is not automatically awarded upon successful completion of degree and licensure requirements. For more information on application procedures for the teaching license, contact the [Council on Teacher Education](#) in the College of Education.
- **Comprehensive Examination** None.
- **Thesis, Project, or Coursework-Only Options** Project consisting of a qualifying paper required for all areas of specialization. No other options are available. Students must register for 4 hours of ENGL 597. No more than 4 hours may be applied toward the degree.
- **Other Requirements Teaching:** ENGL 555 is required in order to hold a TAship. MA students who wish to compete for a TA position in their second year should take ENGL 555 in their first year. ENGL 555 may count toward the 32 required hours. All MA teaching assistants teach sections of ENGL 160 and ENGL 161.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Central and Eastern European Studies](#)
- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)
- [Latin American and Latino Studies](#)