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 95, with minimum subscores of Reading 24, Listening 24, Speaking 24, and Writing 22 (IBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), OR,
  - IELTS 7.0, with subscores of 6.5 for all 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 English at UIC and the relationship of this advanced training to professional and other goals.
- **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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 500</td>
<td>Master's Proseminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 597</td>
<td>Master's Project Research in English</td>
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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 course work, Creative Writing MA students take at least 12 and no more than 16 hours of creative writing workshops.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 557</td>
<td>Language and Literacy (as one of two Bridge Series courses)</td>
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Select two of the following courses in Teaching Methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 482</td>
<td>Campus Writing Consultants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 486</td>
<td>The Teaching of Writing in Middle and Secondary Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 488</td>
<td>Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 487</td>
<td>The Teaching of Reading and Literature in Middle and Secondary Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 555</td>
<td>Teaching College Writing</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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<td>ENGL 488</td>
<td>Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete the following education courses and student teaching program:

- ED 402  Philosophy of Education and Urban School Policy
- or ED 403  Policy Issues in the History of American Education
- ED 421  Advanced Educational Psychology
- or ED 445  Adolescence and the Schools
- ED 432  Instruction and Assessment in the Urban Secondary Classroom (taken in conjunction with ENGL 481)
- SPED 410  Exceptional Learners
- ENGL 498  Educational Practice with Seminar I (student teaching with seminar)
- ENGL 499  Educational Practice with Seminar II (student teaching with seminar)

- 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 Course-Work-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