

# 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 concentrate 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 concentrate 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 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 English Studies concentration should submit a sample of no more than 20 pages appropriate to their proposed area of study.
    - Applicants for the Program for Writers should 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 are encouraged to 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.
- **Course Work** At least 12 of the 32 hours must be at the 500-level, and at least 24 of the 32 hours must be in the Department of English. Credit toward the MA is not given for any course in which the student receives a grade of less than B.

### Course Title

#### Required Courses

All MA students are required to take the following courses for a total of 12 hours of required courses:

ENGL 500	Master's Proseminar
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#### Bridge Series Courses<sup>a</sup>

Select two of the following:

ENGL 507	Theory, Rhetoric, and Aesthetics
ENGL 517	British Literature and Culture
ENGL 527	American Literature and Culture
ENGL 537	Global and Multiethnic Literatures and Cultures
ENGL 547	Media, Film, and Performance Studies
ENGL 557	Language and Literacy
ENGL 567	Discourse Analysis

#### Distribution Requirements<sup>b</sup>

Two courses in British and American studies from the beginnings to 1914

Two courses in British and American studies since 1914

a *Master's students who wish to take courses from the other 500-level series (Discourse, Text, and Context; or Theoretical Engagements) must have the permission of the instructor.*

b *These distribution requirements can be fulfilled through Bridge Series work and 400-level offerings in the department. Advanced undergraduate courses with a grade of B or better may be counted toward these distribution requirements with the permission of the director of graduate studies. No more than 4 hours of credit each taken in ENGL 596 and ENGL 597 may be counted toward the degree.*

## Creative Writing

At least 12 and no more than 16 hours of creative writing workshops in addition to the above requirements.

## English Education

### Course Title

#### Concentration Requirements

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)
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Select two of the following courses in Teaching Methods:

ENGL 481	Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools
ENGL 482	Campus Writing Consultants
ENGL 486	The Teaching of Writing 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 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.

#### Course Title

##### Additional Courses for Teacher Licensure

Complete the following English courses:

ENGL 481	Methods of Teaching English in Middle and Secondary Schools
ENGL 486	The Teaching of Writing in Middle and Secondary Schools
ENGL 487	The Teaching of Reading and Literature in Middle and Secondary Schools

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 concentrations. No other options

are available. Students must register for 0 hours of ENGL 597; up to 4 hours of credit in this course may be applied toward the degree.

## 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](#)