MA IN ENGLISH (CREATIVE WRITING)

Total units required for the MA: 30

Program Description

The M.A. in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing is recommended for students preparing to teach at the community college level, for those students whose objective is to pursue an M.F.A. or Ph.D. in creative writing, and writers seeking to advance their understanding of creative writing practice and theory.

In general, the M.A. degree in each of its concentrations seeks to enhance students’ skills in: critical reading; analysis of language, ideas, and the formal attributes of texts; creative engagement with the writing traditions of its two disciplinary fields; and independent research.

The two concentrations of the English M.A. offer preparation for students who aspire: to teach writing or literary study in high-school or community-college settings; to teach English to adult learners and to students abroad; to pursue career opportunities in fields such as journalism, publishing, law, and creative writing, advertising, arts administration, or civil service; or to pursue study at the doctoral level.

Because many graduate students work during the day, most graduate courses are scheduled for late afternoon and evening hours.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in English requires:

For: All Applicants to the MA in English
- a baccalaureate degree;
- a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 units of all university level coursework or a 3.0 GPA in courses in the English major on the transcript from the degree granting institution;
- a minimum of 27 units of upper division courses in English;
- (for foreign students from non-English speaking countries) a TOEFL score of 600 or higher (or a score of 250 or higher on the Computerized TOEFL) and a score of 5 on the Test of Written English; and
- a minimum of fifteen units of upper-division coursework in literature
- at least one course must primarily address British literature and at least one course must primarily address American literature;

Application Materials Required by the English Department for All Applicants

In addition to any materials sent directly to the department, all Applicants who have deficiencies in these admission requirements which can be removed by specified additional preparation will be ranked accordingly but may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response from the Graduate Coordinator to the student’s admission application.

Application Materials Required by the University

In addition to any materials sent directly to the department, all prospective graduate students including California State University, Sacramento, graduates, must file the following with the Office of Graduate Studies, River Front Center 215, (916) 278-6470:
- an online application for admission;
- two sets of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, other than California State University, Sacramento; and
- TOEFL scores, if applicable.

Note: For materials that must be sent directly to the English Graduate Program Coordinator in the English Department, see “Application Materials Required by the English Department” as listed above.

Applicants are accepted as long as room for new students exists or until the deadline passes. Applicants should file as early as possible.

For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit http://csus.edu/gradstudies/.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirements for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 30
Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0. No units with a grade lower and "C" may apply towards the degree.
Advancement to Candidacy
Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- removed any deficiencies in admission requirements;
- completed at least 12 units of English 200-level courses in the Master’s Degree program with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0; and
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento or secured approval for a WPG waiver.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with an English faculty advisor. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

Program Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required Courses (16 Units)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 200A</td>
<td>Methods and Materials of Literary Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 220A</td>
<td>Teaching College Composition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 275</td>
<td>Seminar in Literary History</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 201D</td>
<td>Contemporary Theory</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Concentration in Creative Writing (12 Units)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 230X</td>
<td>Master Class in Writing Fiction</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 230Y</td>
<td>Master Class in Writing Poetry</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Culminating Requirement (2 Units)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 500</td>
<td>Culminating Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
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1 In order to satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) and advance to candidacy, Creative Writing and Literature students must receive a “B” or higher in ENGL 200A. For more information on this requirement and possible equivalencies, please visit: http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/currentstudents/gwar.html

2 The culminating requirement for Creative Writing Concentration shall be the Comprehensive Examination (Plan C), for which student will prepare by taking ENGL 500.