

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH

GW's master of arts in English is ideal for students interested in deepening their knowledge of Anglophone literature while sharpening their skills in close reading and incisive writing. The program offers comprehensive training in critical theory as well as literary and cultural studies, exposing students to a diversity of texts within a global and transnational context.

A large faculty serves a small student body to allow for close interaction and mentoring at every stage of graduate study. Students are immersed in the cultural and literary opportunities that the nation's capital has to offer, from internships with institutions like the Folger Shakespeare Library to research opportunities at the museums of the Smithsonian Institution.

Over the course of the two-year program, students develop relationships with fellow students and faculty mentors. They also have the option to pursue a thesis or non-thesis track, depending on their interests and professional goals. All students are invited to follow engaging department seminars on a wide array of topics, as well as take courses through the Washington Metropolitan Area Consortium of Universities.

Visit the program website (<https://english.columbian.gwu.edu/ma-english/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

**Admission deadlines:** Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)

Spring – October 1

**Standardized test scores:** The general test of the GRE test is recommended, but not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or

- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 68

**Recommendations:** Three (3) recommendations required:

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

**Writing Sample:** 10-20 pages; this should be critical/scholarly work rather than creative writing.

**International applicants only:** Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

[askccas@gwu.edu](mailto:askccas@gwu.edu)  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

Non-thesis option—30 credits in required courses and a final master’s portfolio; thesis option—30 credits, including 24 credits in required courses and 6 credits of thesis.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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**Required**

ENGL 6100	Introduction to Literary Theory	
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**For students pursuing the thesis option only**

ENGL 6999	Thesis Research (repeated for total of 6 credits)	
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The remainder of the program is developed in consultation with the departmental advisor.

Students must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.25.