

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

Mission Statement

The Department seeks to achieve academic and practical recognition for the excellence of its Masters students. The Department provides instruction, advising, and experiential opportunities for students in an environment promoting scholarship, critical thinking, free inquiry, creativity, and clear and candid communication that attends to the rhetorical conventions of specific genres, audiences, situations, and purposes. In addition, as informed analysts of literature, rhetoric, and culture, we challenge students to develop standards for ethical engagement with the world of discourse, fostering knowledge about how all texts acquire meaning and power in changing historical contexts. We aspire to prepare graduate students for active participation in a community of thinkers, writers, and scholars.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students with a UWF Masters in English should be able to do the following:

Content

- Conduct independent research related to one or more literary periods, texts, authors, critical perspectives, or genres of the student's choice, in consultation with a faculty advisor. Research includes peer-reviewed secondary sources (online and in print) and, as necessary, advanced primary sources such as archives, manuscripts, multiple editions, etc. that are appropriate for graduate-level work in the field of literary studies.
- Demonstrate reading knowledge of a world language other than English by completing a translation exam.

Critical Thinking

- Analyze texts using critical and theoretical approaches that demonstrate the student's familiarity with the history of literary criticism, contemporary critical theory, and emerging trends within the discipline. The expectation at the graduate level is that students will do more than merely "apply" theoretical models to texts, but interrogate and evaluate such models as part of their analysis of works of literature.

Communication

- Produce focused, well-researched, persuasive, and original readings of literary texts. Student work at the graduate level will demonstrate the conventions of professional literary scholarship, including appropriate language, format, tone, structure, and editorial style as defined by the Modern Languages Association and other professional organizations.

Integrity/Values

- Avoid plagiarism
- Properly cite sources using MLA style

Project Management

- Successfully and independently manage the writing process through all stages, including reading, research, analysis, drafting, revising, editing, proofing, formatting, and final submission. Students at the graduate level will produce several essays of professionally expected length and will be required to submit essays on time while maintaining regular communication with their professors/mentors.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

We are committed to providing learning opportunities of the highest possible quality. Our internationally recognized faculty members will assess students' progress in a number of ways including the following: formal essays, extensively researched bibliographies, group projects, examinations, in-class presentations, at least one presentation that has been proposed by the student and presented before a scholarly audience, and a 25-30 page thesis that is potentially publishable. Before graduation students will be asked to complete an Exit Survey in which they assess their own intellectual growth and professional development. In return we expect students' attendance, preparedness, and active participation in coursework and projects.

Job Prospects for Masters of English

Masters of English have many options after graduation for employment or further education including the following:

Publisher	Technical Writer	Law School
Editor	Journalist	Librarian
Creative Writer	Advertising Specialist	
Playwright	Assistant Professor	

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including the Thesis Guide and the Guide to Graduate Study in English:*
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