

MA IN ENGLISH

Program Overview

English - Creative Writing Specialization

Program Coordinator	Cyrus Mulready, (845) 257-2739, mulreadc@newpaltz.edu
Program ID	204C
Credits	30
Program Length	MA can be completed in one year if enrolled full-time, but degree must be completed within 7 years
Modality	In-person
Full-time/Part-time	Full-time
Transfer Credits	6
Capstone	Comprehensive Exam or Thesis

English - Literature Specialization

Program Coordinator	Cyrus Mulready, (845) 257-2739, mulreadc@newpaltz.edu
Program ID	204L
Credits	30
Program Length	MA can be completed in one year if enrolled full-time, but degree must be completed within 7 years
Modality	In-person
Full-time/Part-time	Full-time
Transfer Credits	6
Capstone	Comprehensive Exam or Thesis

Program Description

A Master of Arts (MA) degree in English can be a passport to any number of careers where employers value communication and research skills, proficiency with digital technologies, and the ability to think critically to solve complex programs. Our MA English alumni work in publishing, journalism, education, marketing, law, and politics, among other fields.

The Creative Writing Concentration in the MA in English is designed to help writers find their voices and find their audiences. It is built around poetry and prose workshops led by award-winning published authors. Faculty take a holistic approach to teaching that merges rigorous literary study with a communal, writer's retreat-style experience. Students take a combination of literature courses and creative writing workshops. A special seminar on Teaching Creative Writing will help prepare students interested in future instruction careers. Each student completes a significant final thesis work of prose or poetry during a semester-long one-on-one collaboration with our instructors.

Admission Requirements

- One official copy of a baccalaureate transcript from a regionally accredited institution with at least 36 credits in English, exclusive of freshman composition. (Applicants who present fewer than 36 undergraduate credits in English may remedy this deficiency by taking additional courses as recommended by the English graduate committee.)

- A 3.0 overall cumulative undergraduate grade point average. (Applicants whose undergraduate grade point average in English is less than 3.0 may be admitted on the basis of GRE scores.)
- A sample of the applicant's critical writing, either one or two essays totaling about 10 pages in length.
- Three letters of recommendation
- International applicants must provide an internet-based TOEFL score of at least 85. GREs are recommended.

Application Deadlines

Rolling Admissions	Fall Admission
Rolling Admissions	Spring Admission

Accepting on a rolling basis until the program is full.

Creative Writing Specialization

All course selection is done in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
Complete ONE of the following pre-1800 courses:		3
ENG501	Introduction to Old English	
ENG504	English Literature of the Sixteenth Century	
ENG505	Shakespeare	
ENG506	English Drama through the Jacobean Period	
ENG507	English Literature of the Seventeenth Century	
ENG508	Milton	
ENG560	Forms of Autobiography ¹	
ENG572	Studies in Middle English Literature	
ENG573	Studies in Sixteenth-Century English Literature	
ENG575	Studies in Seventeenth-Century English Literature	
ENG576	Studies in Eighteenth-Century English Literature	
ENG577	Studies in English Romanticism	
ENG588	Studies in Comparative Literature ¹	
ENG593	English Selected Topic ¹	
Complete THREE of the following Post-1800 courses		9
ENG515	Modern Theories of Writing Annual/Fall	
ENG522	Modernity and Modernism in Britain	
ENG524	Virginia Woolf	
ENG525	Postmodern Literature	
ENG526	Twenty-First Century Literature	
ENG536	American Fiction in the Twentieth Century to 1945 Annual/Fall	
ENG537	American Poetry in the Twentieth Century to 1945	
ENG578	Studies in Victorian Literature	
ENG579	Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature	
ENG581	Studies in Twentieth-Century American Fiction to 1945	
ENG583	Studies in Twentieth-Century British Literature	
ENG586	Studies in Contemporary Literature	
ENG588	Studies in Comparative Literature ²	
ENG589	From Gutenberg to Google Books: Studies in Books, Readers, and Culture	
ENG593	English Selected Topic ²	
ENG594	Fieldwork in English	

ENG595	Indep Study English	
Literary Criticism		
ENG585	Studies in Contemporary Criticism and Theory	3
Complete THREE Creative Writing Workshops		9
ENG542	Workshop in Fiction and Memoir ³	
ENG543	Workshop in Poetry ³	
ENG544	Seminar in Teaching Creative Writing	3
Culminating Experience		
ENG590	Thesis in English	3
ENG599	Graduate Comprehensive Exam Registration ⁴	0
Total Credits		30

¹ If the majority of texts are pre-1800.

² If the majority of texts are post-1800.

³ These workshops are repeatable for credit.

⁴ ENG599 Graduate Comprehensive Exam Registration is a non-credit enrollment taken in your final semester as you complete this degree requirement. The Comprehensive Exam may be fulfilled by a "culminating experience" as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

For a complete listing of graduate-level English courses, please visit: <https://catalog.newpaltz.edu/graduate/course-descriptions/eng/>

No more than six credits may be transferred from another institution. No more than six credits taken before admission to the MA program may be credited to the degree.

Curriculum Requirements

All course selection is done in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Code	Title	Credits
Select three courses of Literature Before 1800		9
ENG501	Introduction to Old English	
ENG504	English Literature of the Sixteenth Century	
ENG505	Shakespeare	
ENG506	English Drama through the Jacobean Period	
ENG507	English Literature of the Seventeenth Century	
ENG508	Milton	
ENG560	Forms of Autobiography ¹	
ENG572	Studies in Middle English Literature	
ENG573	Studies in Sixteenth-Century English Literature	
ENG575	Studies in Seventeenth-Century English Literature	
ENG576	Studies in Eighteenth-Century English Literature	
ENG577	Studies in English Romanticism ¹	
ENG588	Studies in Comparative Literature ¹	
ENG593	English Selected Topic ¹	
Select three courses in Literature After 1800		9
ENG522	Modernity and Modernism in Britain	
ENG524	Virginia Woolf	
ENG525	Postmodern Literature	
ENG526	Twenty-First Century Literature	
ENG536	American Fiction in the Twentieth Century to 1945 Annual/Fall	
ENG537	American Poetry in the Twentieth Century to 1945	

ENG560	Forms of Autobiography	
ENG577	Studies in English Romanticism ²	
ENG578	Studies in Victorian Literature	
ENG588	Studies in Comparative Literature ²	
ENG579	Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature	
ENG581	Studies in Twentieth-Century American Fiction to 1945	
ENG583	Studies in Twentieth-Century British Literature	
ENG586	Studies in Contemporary Literature	
ENG589	From Gutenberg to Google Books: Studies in Books, Readers, and Culture	
Literary Criticism and Theory		3
ENG585	Studies in Contemporary Criticism and Theory	
Select three electives - to be chosen in consultation with your Advisor.		9
Culminating Experience		
ENG599	Graduate Comprehensive Exam Registration ³	
Total Credits		30

¹ If pre-1800 texts are the majority.

² If the majority of texts are post-1800.

³ ENG599 Graduate Comprehensive Exam Registration is a non-credit enrollment taken in your final semester as you complete this degree requirement. The Comprehensive Exam may be fulfilled by a "culminating experience" as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

NOTE: The Thesis in English (ENG590) is an optional course which may be used to fulfill pre-1800, post-1800 or elective categories.

For a complete listing of graduate-level English courses, please visit: <https://catalog.newpaltz.edu/graduate/course-descriptions/eng/>

No more than six credits may be transferred from another institution. No more than six credits that are taken before admission to the MA program may be credited to the degree.

Assistantships

Teaching Assistantships are available for students in the MA program. The Assistantship pays a stipend plus tuition for two graduate English courses per semester; recipients of the Assistantship teach one section of Composition and enroll in two graduate English courses per semester. Teaching Assistants are supported through a maximum of 33 credits. Modern Theories of Writing, ENG515, is required and is usually taken in the first semester of the Assistantship. Applications are made through the English Department office.

A limited number of other stipendiary positions are sometimes available within the English Department and elsewhere on campus. Check regularly with the English Department to learn of these opportunities.

Program Requirements

- Complete prescribed course work within seven years after matriculation.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, with no more than two grades below B-.
- Satisfactory performance on the English Department's comprehensive examination or approved culminating experience.

Graduate Checklist

- Apply for graduation via my.newpaltz.edu under “Graduation” tab according to the schedule in the [academic calendar](#).
- Resolve any pending admission conditions (outlined in your acceptance letter) and/or missing documents if applicable.
- Review your progress report via my.newpaltz.edu to ensure that you have completed all program requirements.
- Remember that only two grades below a B- may be applied to your [plan of study](#).
- Contact your advisor if you need to amend your plan or process [transfer credit](#).
- Ensure that you are in [good academic standing](#) with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or higher.
- Pass your capstone or culminating assessment.
- Complete your degree within the [specified time limit](#) outlined in the Program Overview.

Program Learning Outcomes

- Proficiency in the critical and/or theoretical reading of literary texts.
- Mastery of the conventions of discipline-specific academic discourse.
- Ability to conduct advanced research.
- Effective oral communication skills through intensive class discussion and formal presentations.
- Knowledge of premodern literary cultures.
- Knowledge of modern literary cultures.