

MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

SPECIALIZATION IN LITERARY AND TEXTUAL STUDIES



Why the MA in English?

The MA in English with Specialization in Literary and Textual Studies is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to develop expert knowledge in advanced literary studies through training in research methods, cultural studies, and literary history. Coursework in the program offers students the opportunity to engage with a variety of texts across historical periods as well as some of the most recent developments in literary studies and cultural criticism.

Why the MA in English at BGSU?

Our faculty is made up of knowledgeable and supportive scholars whose research interests focus on a range of approaches, such as critical race theory, deconstruction, feminism and gender studies, new historicism, postcolonial studies, psychoanalysis, and queer theory. Small seminar sizes ensure students work closely with professors and fellow students to create exceptional research and strong professional relationships. During the final year of the program, students work one-on-one with their chosen faculty to develop scholarly research in the form of a master's thesis or portfolio, based on their unique interests.

Learning outcomes

Graduates of the program:

- Develop creative and critical thinking skills through intensive writing, reading, and critical/creative engagement with texts.
- Develop proper analytical skills in oral and written articulation and awareness of context.
- Effectively use writing to explore subject matter and to communicate in class as well as for publication and presentation at conferences.
- Develop understanding of subject matter and writing in relationship to larger historical and/or cultural/multicultural contexts.
- Make connections between theory and practice.
- Develop a sophisticated grasp of the concept of culture as a device to organize further study of the many discrete aspects of our historical, social, intellectual and artistic heritage.
- Connect with intra-and extra-departmental programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

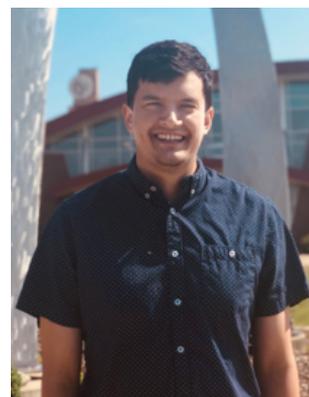
Contact Dr. Stephannie Gearhart, Director, Literary & Textual Studies Program, Department of English, at stephsg@bgsu.edu or 419-372-6841

Program strengths and uniqueness

- Flexible, student-focused coursework allows students to engage with a variety of historical texts, as well as contemporary works in literature, film, poetry, and more.
- Small seminar sizes give students the opportunity to work closely with knowledgeable, supportive faculty members to create exceptional research and strong professional relationships.
- Students develop their own scholarly research projects, including a master's thesis or portfolio, based on their unique interests.
- Option to further diversify their skillset by pursuing a graduate certificate in a related field.
- Opportunities to gain teaching experience in the teaching of composition and/or Literature.

Professional opportunities

Our master's program prepares students for a diverse range of career paths. The majority of our students receive funding through assistantships involving teaching in BGSU's University Writing Program (UWP), research, or department service. By becoming actively involved in the department in these ways, taking courses, and composing capstone research, our program prepares students for advanced graduate work in numerous fields of study in the humanities, as well as careers outside of the academy. Some recent graduates have continued their studies, progressing into excellent doctoral programs; others have chosen exciting careers in publishing, research and analysis, academic advising, computer storyboarding, as well as K-12 and higher education.



"Receiving my MA in English from BGSU helped prepare me for my career immensely. The level of organization, productivity, and effective communication that a graduate degree in English requires helps you build relevant skills for any kind of job. Having a teaching assistantship at BG also gave me a great foundation for working with college students and helping them navigate their first semesters in the college environment."

— Adam Wagner, '19, Advisor at Owens Community College

Admission requirements

To gain regular status admission, applicants traditionally have an overall GPA of at least 2.8 and an English GPA of 3.2; however, the entirety of the application will be taken into account and lower GPAs will still be considered.

The Department of English requires the GRE General Exam. We generally look for Verbal score of 159 (or around 80th percentile) or higher, and a Writing score of 4.5 or higher. Please note that while we require the GRE, we do not base our entire decision on any one portion of an application, including the exam scores. The scores listed above are guidelines, not absolute requirements. We use the entirety of the application, understanding that some applicants score better on standardized test scores than do others.

Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

Applicants must also submit the following materials:

- Three Letters of Recommendation from academic references who can attest to your academic ability, your critical thinking skills, your academic writing abilities, etc.
- All applicants must submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced) statement of purpose. This statement should describe your academic background (and career, if applicable), your preparation for an MA in English program, and your interests and motivation for pursuing the MA in English with a specialization in Literary and Textual Studies at BGSU.
- All applicants must also submit a 10-15 page (double-spaced) critical writing sample. This sample should demonstrate your writing ability, your preparation for graduate-level academic writing, and your ability to make an analytical argument about a literary work and/or a theoretical concept or field. Two or more shorter samples can be accepted for a total of 10-15 pages in the absence of a single longer sample.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement. We generally look for a TOEFL score of 100 or higher (and written and speaking scores of 25 or higher), or the equivalent for the IELTS exam.

Curriculum

Year One, Fall Semester:

- ENG 6010: Introduction to English Studies
- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG 6020: Teaching of Writing (for first-year students who teach through UWP; does not count toward graduation) or ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective, for students not teaching through UWP)

Year One, Spring Semester:

- ENG 6070: Theory and Methods of Literary Criticism
- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)

Year Two, Fall Semester:

- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG 6990 or ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)

Year Two, Spring Semester:

- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)
- ENG 6990 or ENG seminar in an area of interest (elective)

An MA Plan II with a portfolio option instead of the thesis is available.

All MA students will take the following three courses in order to gain an appreciation for the questions and theories that drive literary and textual studies:

- ENG 6010: Introduction to English Studies
- ENG 6070: Theory and Methods of Literary Criticism
- ENG 6990: Thesis Research or Portfolio Hours

How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions.

Fall Application Deadline: Applications and supporting materials should be received by January 15th to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Financial assistance

A limited number of teaching assistantships and scholarships are available for full-time students on a competitive basis. For more information, please contact the department.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.