

# Master of Arts with a Major in English

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## Selected Educational Outcomes

1. To demonstrate an ability to interpret language and literature in light of key facts, concepts, and contexts.
2. To employ a variety of critical approaches.
3. To produce systematic and thoroughly researched work appropriate to the discipline.
4. To participate in activities related to the profession.

## Outcome Assessments

The English Department assesses the extent to which its program requirements create the desired outcomes by using a variety of techniques. Examples of these assessments (and the related educational outcome) include the following:

1. Students will pass a two-hour written comprehensive examination or prepare a master's thesis.
2. Students will pass either an oral examination or successfully defend a thesis.
3. Students will complete a Graduate Student Exit Questionnaire and an exit interview.

Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application to the Graduate School. A completed application includes official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, official test scores (GRE), completed application, fee, and any additional program requirements, submitted by the admission deadline. To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents.

## Application Deadlines:

Fall: July 1

Spring: November 1

Summer: April 1

Go to the Graduate School website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/welcome.php>) and click on Our Programs, then click on English for information on:

- Specific English Program Admission Requirements
- English Program Retention, Dismissal, and Readmission Policies
- English Program Graduation Requirements

To Apply Online, click here (<https://www.applyweb.com/apply/vsug/menu.html>).

Students may be accepted as probationary students in the Department of English. In order to be accepted as such, students must meet either the minimum GPA or GRE requirements (<http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/Englishadmissions.shtml/>). Moreover, students must submit a three-page essay to the Department of English, detailing (a) career goals and (b) academic interests. Probationary acceptance is provisional and at the discretion of the Graduate Committee.

## Thesis Option

A master's thesis in English should be a work of 50 or more pages demonstrating competent and substantial research coupled with an innovative approach to the subject matter. The thesis will be directed by a faculty member and a committee of two other faculty members (one of whom must be from a department outside English). Once the thesis has been submitted, students will have an oral defense covering both the thesis and their coursework. Students following this option must complete a minimum of 30 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis credit.

For important additional thesis guidelines, click here (<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts-sciences/english/programs/english-ma/thesis-and-non-thesis-options.php>).

## Non-Thesis Option—Comprehensive Examination

In either track, students will develop, in consultation with their committee, a reading list representative of a currently recognized sub-field or specialty in their specific area of emphasis. This list should consist of no fewer than 20 secondary sources (articles and/or book chapters), excluding material that students have already studied in their classes.

Students will then take a three-hour written examination over the reading list as well as undergo a follow-up oral examination over the written test and their coursework. These examinations should be taken during the final semester. Students following this option must complete 36 hours of coursework.

For important additional exam guidelines, click here (<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts-sciences/english/programs/english-ma/thesis-and-non-thesis-options.php>).

Students who plan to take the comprehensive examination in either area of emphasis may take 3 credits of exam reading hours (ENGL 8995). Students should submit a formal request to the graduate coordinator briefly outlining the scope of the exam and must include the reading list assigned to them by their exam committee chair as well as a copy of the committee appointment form including all required signatures. The three credits of reading hours can count toward the 36 hours of coursework required for the degree. Exam reading hours may not be repeated for credit.

Students entering either emphasis without an undergraduate degree in English or an English minor must complete the following requirements prior to enrollment in graduate-level coursework with a grade of "B" or higher in each:

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 3060	Introduction to Criticism and Research	3
ENGL 3210	American Literature I	3
ENGL 3215	American Literature II	3
ENGL 3110	British Literature I	3
ENGL 3120	British Literature II	3

## Emphasis in Literature

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>18</b>
ENGL 7000	Approaches to Graduate Study	3
ENGL 7010	Approaches to Critical Theory	3
Seminars (8000-level)		12
<b>Guided Electives</b>		<b>12</b>
Select twelve hours from the following options:		
Studies Courses (7000-level ENGL)		0-12
Seminars (8000-level ENGL)		0-12
Graduate Option (ENGL 6000 and/or course from other departments) <sup>1</sup>		0-9
<b>Culminating Experience: Select one of the options below</b>		
Option A: Comprehensive Examination		6
ENGL 8995	Comprehensive Exam Reading Hours	
ENGL Elective		
Option B: Thesis		6
ENGL 8999	Thesis	
<b>Total Required for the Degree</b>		<b>36</b>

<sup>1</sup> In order to take advantage of our extensive undergraduate offerings and to engage in interdisciplinary study, students will also have the opportunity to exercise a graduate option. Under this option, students will be allowed a maximum of 9 hours of coursework that can be drawn from selected 4000-level courses within the English Department with the prefixes ENGL, LING, and JOUR (with the instructor's permission, graduate students may take the undergraduate course with appropriate adjustments in the course syllabus); only 6 hours of the Graduate Option can be taken as graduate courses outside the English Department.

## Emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Courses</b>		<b>18</b>
ENGL 7000	Approaches to Graduate Study	3
ENGL 7010	Approaches to Critical Theory	3
ENGL 4620/6000	Survey of the History of Rhetoric ( if not taken as an undergraduate) <sup>2</sup>	0-3
ENGL 7600	Studies in Rhetoric and Composition	3
or ENGL 8600	Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition	
or ENGL 8800	Teaching College Composition	
Select one from the following:		3
ENGL 4610/6000	History of the English Language (if not taken as an undergraduate) <sup>2</sup>	
ENGL 7600	Studies in Rhetoric and Composition (if not taken above)	

ENGL 8300	Revision and Editing for Professionals	
ENGL 8600	Seminar in Rhetoric and Composition (if not taken above)	
ENGL 8690	Workshop in Rhetoric and Composition <sup>3</sup>	
LING 6000	Principles of Language Study	
LING 6160	Language in Society	
<b>Guided Electives</b>		<b>15</b>
Select fifteen hours from the following:		
Studies Courses (7000-level ENGL)		
Seminars (8000-level ENGL)		
Graduate Option (ENGL 6000 and/or courses from other departments) <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Culminating Experience: Select one of the options below</b>		
Option A: Comprehensive Exam		6
ENGL 8995	Comprehensive Exam Reading Hours	
ENGL elective		
Option B: Thesis		6
ENGL 8999	Thesis	
<b>Total Required for the Degree</b>		<b>36</b>

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- <sup>2</sup> The Graduate Option allows students to take a maximum of two courses that are cross-listed with a 4000-level course, listed as ENGL 6000 Graduate Option. If taken at the undergraduate level, these courses cannot be taken again for graduate credit.
- <sup>3</sup> ENGL 8690 may be taken twice for credit

Students seeking the M.A. in English as a second master's degree must satisfy all the requirements for the Master of Arts in English.

## T-5 Certification

Students wishing to obtain T-5 certification may do so after the completion of the M.A. program, provided they have a T-4 certificate and complete the professional education courses required for T-5 certification by the State Department of Education.