



English

Master of Arts

The M.A. program in English serves those who wish to expand their understanding of Literature, Creative Writing, Writing and Rhetoric, or Professional Writing in preparation for the humanities workplace. Careers that build on the real-time and digital skills of reading, researching, writing, collaborating, arguing, and presenting have never been at more of a premium. Twenty-first-century careers that reward graduate study in English include teaching (with 30+ and 60+ certification), the arts, social media and web-content writing, technical writing (in marketing, public relations and healthcare), law, and government.

All students are eligible to take all courses (noting any pre-requisites). Most **LITERATURE** courses are studies in particular themes, genres, historical periods, or critical approaches; topics vary and are announced during the preceding semester. **CREATIVE WRITING** courses are taught via workshop discussion of student writing supplemented by selected relevant readings; advanced courses emphasize form and technique, with attention to both traditional and contemporary models. **WRITING AND RHETORIC** courses explore current theories and practices in the field of composition, including the teaching of writing, the effect of digital communications and multimedia on writing and literacy, and the development of effective writing strategies in traditional and online forms and publication venues.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Official transcripts from **all** post-secondary institutions attended
- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
 - A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 as a whole and a 3.0 in English
 - Study of a minimum of 18-credit hours in courses beyond the introductory level in English or a related field.
- Three letters of recommendation
- A 500 – word personal statement outlining applicant's preparation for master's work and career plans
- Submission of a 10 – 25 page writing sample, depending on a concentration:
 - Literature Concentration: Essay demonstrating critical analysis of a literary text or set of texts. One 12-25-page essay is preferred, but two shorter essays can be submitted in its place (totaling 12-25 pages.)
 - Writing & Rhetoric Concentration: A 12-25-page sample of creative nonfiction can be submitted in place of the critical analysis, although students may choose to submit a critical analysis. One 12-25-page essay is preferred, but two shorter essays can be submitted in its place (totaling 12-25 pages.)
 - Creative Writing/Poetry Concentration: For fiction, a 12-25-page sample of short fiction or excerpt from a longer work should be submitted. One short story is preferred, but multiple stories can be submitted to fulfill the page requirement. For poetry, 10 pages should be submitted to fulfill the requirement
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

LITERATURE AND WRITING RHETORIC CONCENTRATIONS

Core Courses (21 Credits)		Credits
ENG 700	Introduction to English Studies	3
ENG 702	Introduction Critical Theory	3
ENG 784	Readings in Composition and Rhetoric	3
OR		
ENG 785	Seminar in Writing Practice and Theory	3
ENG 795	Master's Research	3
Electives (9 Credits) *	Three courses may be from another department	

*Three courses in literary history, language and literature, or writing and rhetoric. One elective may be in creative writing or from outside the Department with the approval of the Graduate Program Director.

CREATIVE WRITING CONCENTRATION

Core Courses (9 Credits)		Credits
ENG 700	Introduction to English Studies	3
OR		
ENG 702	Introduction Critical Theory	3
ENG 784	Readings in Composition and Rhetoric	3
OR		
ENG 785	Seminar in Writing Practice and Theory	3
ENG 795	Master's Research	3

Electives (9 Credits)

Three courses in literature

POETRY OR FICTION CONCENTRATIONS (12 Credits)

MASTER'S ESSAY OR THESIS

At the completion of 15 credits, students should begin planning their Master's Essay or Thesis. For students in Literature or Rhetoric & Writing, essays must be 25-50 pages in length and demonstrate original scholarship suitable for publication in a scholarly journal in English studies. While it may originate in a previous seminar project, the final essay must demonstrate substantive revision and expansion, including new research, as verified by the faculty advisor. The Creative Writing Thesis will consist of 25-35 pages of poetry or 75-125 pages of fiction, suitable for publication, and will include a critical introduction. The Master's Essay or Thesis will be read by a faculty advisor and a second reader approved by the Graduate Directors.

ORAL DEFENSE

After completing ENG 795, the student must defend the Master's Essay or Creative Writing Thesis in a two-hour oral defense conducted by the faculty advisor and at least one second reader. Electronic and paper copies of the final essay or thesis approved by the faculty advisor must be submitted to the Graduate Directors.

RELATION TO THE CUNY Ph.D. PROGRAM

M.A. candidates may conclude their academic studies with the Master's degree in English, or they may decide to pursue doctoral study. Up to 25 graduate credits in the Literature or the Writing and Rhetoric concentrations at Lehman College may be counted toward the Ph.D. in English at the CUNY Graduate Center.

THE DR. ALICE GRIFFIN FELLOWSHIP IN LITERACY STUDIES

Upon completion of 15 credits toward their completion of the M.A. in English with a concentration in Literature, students may apply or be nominated for the Dr. Alice Griffin Fellowship. This fellowship is the generous gift of Professor of English Emerita Alice Griffin, an expert in Shakespeare and American Theatre who taught at Lehman College from 1949, when it was still the women's college of Hunter, to her retirement in 1991.

Questions about the program?

Prof. Bret Maney

Bret.maney@lehman.cuny.edu

Questions about admissions?

The Office of Graduate Admissions
<https://www.lehman.edu/graduate-admissions/applying/>