

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

- Recognize not only the basic elements of literary works such as plot, setting, character, point of view, form, and narrative structure, but also the sophisticated philosophical assumptions conveyed by those works
- Identify models of rhetoric employed in literary works, newspapers, journals, and speeches, and explain the strategic differences among them
- Describe not only the general social, historical, and philosophical contexts in which literary works have developed, but also the specific cultural debates in which they participate
- Seek careers in publishing, teaching, advertising, law, business, librarianship, and academic administration, among others

Critical Thinking

- Critically interpret and assess the philosophical impact of literary works by American, British, and other international writers of various genres, periods, traditions, and ethnic backgrounds
- Relate general as well as specific historical and cultural background materials crucial to the understanding of British and American Literature
- Apply theoretical perspectives to literary studies, including but not limited to formalist, historicist, feminist, and psychoanalytic perspectives
- Engage in the entire world of discourse and debate from politics to education

Communication

- Master commonly employed as well as sophisticated English grammatical structures and syntax
- Employ information technologies in their professional and personal pursuits
- Present ideas clearly, effectively, and elegantly in written and oral communications

Integrity/Values

- Describe the aesthetic values that support and challenge the literary canon and explain how aesthetic values influence ethical values
- Develop standards for ethical engagement with the world of discourse

Project Management

- Complete a thesis in the final semesters before achieving the master's degree according to the guidelines provided in the Department's *Thesis Guide*
- Submit a proposal for and make at least one public presentation of an academic paper before an audience of scholars and peers prior to completion of the degree
- Collaborate effectively with colleagues
- Design communication models specific to a given task or audience

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	

*Find Out More About The English Master's Degree at UWF,
including the Thesis Guide and the Guide to Graduate Study in English:*

www.uwf.edu/english