ENGLISH, PH.D.

The Ph.D. in English requires 42-48 credit hours and is offered to superior applicants who are preparing for careers in teaching and research in colleges and universities. The program permits specialization in literary studies or rhetoric and composition in small classes and a format conducive to individualized instruction. Full-time doctoral students may be appointed as teaching assistants in the department. The most talented students are recommended for fellowships.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions.

In addition to the application materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit a writing sample (less than 30 pages), a 1-2 page statement of purpose, and a current cv or resume.

M.A. Doctoral Track

Individuals intending to continue on to doctoral studies in English at UNC Greensboro may apply to the M.A. Doctoral Track which offers exceptionally well-qualified applicants the opportunity to gain admission to the master’s and doctoral programs simultaneously. This program is designed for students who would like to obtain their M.A. and then proceed directly to the Ph.D. program. Students accepted into the Doctoral Track must fulfill all requirements for the M.A. and the Ph.D. and will earn both degrees. Students not accepted into the M.A. Doctoral Track may still be accepted into the M.A. only.

Ph.D. Track

Students who enter with an M.A. in English are required to earn a minimum of 27 credit hours, fulfill the foreign language requirement, pass the preliminary comprehensive examination, and defend successfully their dissertations. Students entering with other advanced degrees will have their transcripts individually evaluated by the Director of Graduate Study to establish the minimum course work required.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 42-48 credit hours

No more than three courses at the 500 level may be submitted for the degree. All other work must be at the 600 level and above.

Required Core Courses (9-12 credits)

All students have three course requirements in their doctoral program, and all are taken as a part of the 27 credit plan of study. The course requirements are based on the student’s declared primary area of specialization from the following options:

Area of Specialization

- Old and Middle English Literature
- Renaissance/Early Modern Literature
- Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature
- Nineteenth-Century British Literature
- Post-1900 British and Anglophone Literature
- Postcolonial and World Literatures and Theory
- American Literature Before 1900
- American Literature After 1900
- Native American Literature
- African American Literature
- Rhetoric and Composition
- Literary Theory

If a student’s specialization is in literature before 1800, the course requirements are

- 1 course in literature before 1800
- 1 course in rhetoric and composition or literary theory

If a student’s specialization is in literature after 1800, the course requirements are

- 1 course in literature after 1800
- 1 course in rhetoric and composition or literary theory

If a student’s specialization is in rhetoric and composition, the course requirements are

- 1 course in rhetoric and composition

In addition, all graduate teaching assistants are required to take ENG 747 Teaching College Writing. This course does not fulfill a doctoral course requirement but may be included in the plan of study.

Electives (15-18 credits)

For the remaining credits of electives, students should choose from the graduate offerings that will help them specialize in their primary and secondary areas in English and in supporting fields. These courses, selected in consultation with the Director of Graduate Study and the student’s advisory committee, should form a coherent plan to prepare the student in the areas of specialization.

Minor in a Supporting Field

With the approval of the student’s advisory/dissertation committee and the Director of Graduate Study, students may use their electives and additional courses toward achieving a minor in certain supporting fields outside of English. A minor consists of at least 12 credits of advanced work in a single cognate subject. All coursework applied toward the minor must be approved by the Director of Graduate Study.

Foreign Language Requirement

Ph.D. students fulfill the foreign language requirement before taking the preliminary examination. A level of proficiency in one foreign language, equivalent to completion of the second semester of an intermediate course (such as ENG 204 Nonwestern Literary Classics at UNC Greensboro), must be documented either by previous coursework completed during the last five years and approved by the Director of Graduate Study, or by coursework while enrolled in the Ph.D. program, or by an appropriate score on a written examination. Native speakers of other languages can demonstrate foreign language proficiency through their graduate course work in English.
Preliminary Comprehensive Examination

At the end of the coursework and after satisfying the foreign language requirement and other conditions or research skill requirements, students must pass the preliminary comprehensive examination. In preparation for the examination, the student prepares reading lists for one primary field and two secondary fields in consultation with the advisory committee.

Written Examination

The written examination is taken on three days within one week and consists of the following:

A five-hour examination on the primary field, the specialization chosen from among the following areas: Old and Middle English; Renaissance/Early Modern English; Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British, Nineteenth-Century British; Post-1900 British and Anglophone Literature, Postcolonial and World Literature and Theory, American Literature before 1900, American Literature after 1900, Native American Literature, African American Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, Literary Theory.

Two three-hour examinations in secondary fields. One of these fields could be either a different area selected from the list of primary fields or a cross-period/critical problem.

Oral Examination

The oral examination (two to three credits) is on the primary and secondary fields and is taken within a month after the written examination.

Further guidelines for the preliminary examination and reading lists may be found at www.uncg.edu/eng/graduate.

Dissertation (15-21 credits)

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<th>Code</th>
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<td>ENG 799</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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A dissertation demonstrates ability to do original research and to present this investigation in an orderly, exact, and complete manner.

Final Oral Examination

The examination administered by the advisory committee is largely related to the dissertation but may cover topics from the entire field of the candidate's study, including courses taken here and elsewhere.