Master of Arts in English

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of English		
Degree abbreviation	M.A.	**CIP code**	23.0101
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/english/ma		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Department of English promotes scholarly and creative discovery within Florida Atlantic University's diverse community. English study trains students in textual analysis, communication and critical thinking. The master's program prepares students for doctoral work or careers that value independent research, writing and long-term projects.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and discovery. Through independent research and writing of publishable quality, graduates prepare for doctoral study, teaching and other careers.

About the program

The M.A. in English is a two-year program that ends in a thesis or a comprehensive exam. Students study literature and criticism in depth, with concentrations such as rhetoric and composition or science fiction and fantasy. The program is a great fit for students preparing for a doctorate, teaching or careers built on research and writing.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain the existing scholarship on the writers and works they study.
Graduates will be able to use scholarly sources to support their own research on literature.

How students show it

The master's thesis or comprehensive exam.

Where it is assessed

Master's thesis; Comprehensive exam

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to write mature, rhetorically skilled prose of publishable quality.
Graduates will be able to present their research at academic conferences.

How students show it

The master's thesis or comprehensive exam, and papers accepted for journals or conference presentations.

Where it is assessed

Master's thesis; Comprehensive exam

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to evaluate critical traditions and take part in current critical debates in literary studies.

How students show it

The master's thesis or comprehensive exam.

Where it is assessed

Master's thesis; Comprehensive exam

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Faculty review each student's thesis or comprehensive exam using a shared guide. It looks at maturity of thought, style and mechanics, knowledge of existing scholarship and engagement with critical debates. The department also tracks papers students publish or present at conferences.

Assessment methods may change over time.