



GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

ENGLISH

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of science in criminal justice
The master of arts in English helps students attain a number of goals. It offers opportunities for the study of language, literature, rhetoric and composition, pedagogy, creative writing, and literary and cultural critical theory. The diverse and comprehensive selection of courses cultivates scholarly knowledge and enhances cultural literacy in an atmosphere that engages students intellectually and creatively. The program prepares students to enroll in advanced graduate programs (for the Ph.D. in literature or composition and rhetoric, for example), to teach literature or writing in secondary schools or two-year colleges, and to enter a range of other professions in which writing expertise and analytical thinking is valued.

THE CURRICULUM

Students admitted into the M.A. in English can select the track or concentration best suited to their needs. The M.A. in English offers two tracks: one in **literature** (with a thesis and nonthesis option), and the other in **writing, teaching, and criticism**. It also offers a **concentration in creative writing**, with a creative thesis required.

Students who have already received a bachelor's degree and who desire to become certified to teach English can do so through the post-baccalaureate certification in secondary English (a nondegree program).

LITERATURE TRACK

Both the thesis and nonthesis options require the following:

ENG 500 Introduction to the Profession

ENG 501 Literary Theory

The **nonthesis option** (36 credits) also requires five courses (15 credits) in literature

from before 1500 to the present, and five courses (15 credits) of electives. Students are to select four electives from among courses in the following categories: general topics and theory, English literature, American literature, comparative literature, composition and rhetoric, and research and special topics. Students are to select one free elective chosen from among all ENG categories, including those listed above and in the categories of language, teaching skills, and creative writing.

The **thesis option** (33-36 credits) also requires ENG 620, M.A. Essay (3-6 credits), three courses (nine credits) in literature from before 1660 to the present, and five courses of electives (as defined in the nonthesis option). As part of the courses they select, students in both the thesis and nonthesis options also are required to take courses that fulfill noncanonical requirements and requirements in American literature.

WRITING, TEACHING, AND CRITICISM TRACK

In the writing, teaching, and criticism track, required core courses are as follows:

ENG 501 Literary Theory (and a second literature course)

ENG 506 Critical Pedagogies and Literacies (and a second composition and rhetoric course)

ENG 616 Capstone Research Seminar

PWP 502 Strategies for Teaching Writing: Teachers as Writers (and a second PWP course)

Five elective options which may be taken in composition and rhetoric, literature and/or PWP, an award-winning site of the National Writing Project providing graduate courses, in-service programs, and other professional development opportunities to teachers in the WCU region.

One course in the program must be selected as a "noncanonical" course. This is not an additional course but one that occurs in the program requirements. Students must take a total of 36 credit hours to complete the program of study.

The creative writing concentration requires 33-36 credits.

Required courses:

ENG 501 Literary Theory

ENG 504 Methods and Materials of Publishing

ENG 620 M.A. Essay (creative thesis project)

Four courses (12 credits) poetry and/or fiction workshops

Four courses (12 credits) electives, selected from among courses in the following categories: general topics and theory, English literature, American literature, comparative literature, composition and rhetoric, and research and special topics. At least one of the four electives must be taken in a topic addressing writing, literature, and/or pedagogy relating to under-represented groups.

Those interested in an M.A. in teaching English as a second language (TESL) should contact the director of the TESL program.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

A number of graduate assistantships are available to qualified applicants. Interested students should submit the relevant materials included in the admission application. Graduate assistants receive tuition remission and a stipend. Full-time and half-time assistantships are available.

WCU POETRY CENTER

The WCU Poetry Center sponsors the internationally recognized WCU Poetry

Conference, the annual Poet-in-Residence, monthly poetry readings, poetry teas, and other poetry-related activities. Story Line Press is also located at the center and provides opportunities for internships. For more information about the Poetry Center, please visit the Web site: <http://www.wcupa.edu/poetry/>.

COLLEGE LITERATURE

College Literature is an award-winning scholarly journal edited by Dr. Graham MacPhee, a member of the English faculty. A limited number of editorial assistantships are available.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of English faculty includes nationally and internationally published scholars and critics in literary and cultural studies, composition and rhetoric, creative writing, film theory and criticism, journalism, and linguistics. Courses are offered in English, American, and comparative literatures; literary and cultural criticism; rhetoric and composition theory and practice; linguistics; and the writing of poetry, fiction, and the novel. Class size averages 16-18 students.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are evaluated on undergraduate GPA, an analytical writing sample on a topic related to the study of English, and letters of recommendation. Students are encouraged to apply online at www.wcupa.edu/grad.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and
Extended Education
McKelvie Hall

102 West Rosedale Avenue
West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: gradstudy@wcupa.edu

Web: www.wcupa.edu/grad

Visit: www.facebook.com/wcugrad

Or contact the department:

Write: Graduate Coordinator
Department of English
541 Main Hall

West Chester University
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2745

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/_academics/
sch_cas.eng/graduate/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.eng/graduate/)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/.

ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

