ENGLISH, MA

The Department offers full-time M.A. and Ph.D. programs. Comprehensive in their range of specializations, these programs are intellectually dynamic and rigorous. Our M.A. program offers students a solid foundation in the professional study of literature and culture, and our Ph.D. program prepares students for full participation in the profession as scholars and teachers of English and American literature, broadly conceived. Over seventy graduate students enjoy close interaction with thirty-eight internationally renowned faculty members in the Department who teach and publish on a large number of historical periods, theoretical areas, and methodological approaches.

Our Department culture reflects our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that is at once challenging and supportive. We recognize that success in our profession requires more than taking courses, passing exams, writing a dissertation, attending conferences, and publishing articles; it also involves the recognition that we produce new knowledge collectively. Accordingly, we consider our graduate students full members of the Department and encourage everyone to take an active role in the intellectual and social community of the Department as well as other programs and departments across campus.

View the Graduate Handbook: http://www.english.upenn.edu/graduate/handbook (http://www.english.upenn.edu/graduate/handbook/).

For more information: http://www.english.upenn.edu/

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2026 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

Curriculum

View the University's Academic Rules for Research Master's Programs (https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-research-masters/).

Code	Title	Course Units
Research Requirement		
Master's Final Exam		
Graduate Group signoff		

The total course units required for graduation is 8.

Code	Title	Course Units
Required Courses		
Select at least one 7000 level course		1
Select 7 additional courses [1]		7
One language exam		
Total Course Units		**8**

[1] ENGL 9999 only by permission of Grad Chair; no ENGL 9998.