

English

The Department of English offers the degrees of **Master of Arts (AM)** and **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in English and American Literature** and **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in English and Comparative Literature**. Candidates for admission apply to the PhD program; we do not accept students for a standalone AM. The PhD is a six-year program.

The graduate program in English and American literature at Washington University in St. Louis is innovative, approachably sized and generously funded, with all incoming students receiving full tuition scholarships plus university fellowships. Our faculty includes Guggenheim Fellows, winners of the National Book Critics Circle Award and members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. As a participant in the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate, we exemplify an integrated community of scholars and writers, and we are home to one of the top ten MFA programs in the United States. We sponsor multiple reading groups, regular faculty and student colloquia, and an extensive lecture series. The Hurst Visiting Professorship brings eight or more distinguished creative and critical voices to the department each year. Recent Hurst Professors have included Jerome McGann, Jed Esty, Charles Altieri, Carla Kaplan, Michael Wood, James Longenbach, Peter Coviello, Daniel Vitkus, Rita Felski and Rita Copeland. These professors present public talks, and they also lead small workshops open only to graduate students.

Our program is rooted in the materials of literary history, from medieval to post-postmodern times, and we embrace the importance of interdisciplinarity. We believe that intellectual community is fostered by concrete working relationships between professors and students, and we offer collaborative teaching opportunities with experienced faculty. Graduate students in good standing can expect six years of full funding in all.

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Faculty

Chair

Abram Van Engen (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/abram-van-engen/>)

PhD, Northwestern University

Endowed Professors

Gerald L. Early (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/gerald-early/>)

Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters
PhD, Cornell University

Vincent Sherry (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/vincent-sherry/>)

Howard Nemerov Professor in the Humanities
PhD, University of Toronto

Professors

Mary Jo Bang (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/mary-jo-bang/>)

MFA, Columbia University

Joseph Loewenstein (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/joe-loewenstein/>)

PhD, Yale University

William J. Maxwell (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/william-j-maxwell/>)

PhD, Duke University

Anca Parvulescu (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/anca-parvulescu/>)

PhD, University of Minnesota

Carl Phillips (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/carl-phillips/>)

MA, Boston University

Wolfram Schmidgen (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/wolfram-schmidgen/>)

PhD, University of Chicago

Rafia Zafar (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/rafia-zafar/>)

PhD, Harvard University

Associate Professors

Guinn Batten (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/guinn-batten/>)

PhD, Duke University

J. Dillon Brown (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/j-dillon-brown/>)

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Danielle Dutton (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/danielle-dutton/>)

PhD, University of Denver

William McKelvy (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/william-mckelvy/>)

PhD, University of Virginia

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MFA, University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

Melanie Micir (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/melanie-micir/>)

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Jessica Rosenfeld (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/jessica-rosenfeld/>)

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Julia Walker (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/julia-walker/>)

PhD, Duke University

Assistant Professors

Ama Bemba Adwetewa-Badu (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/ama-bemba-adwetewa-badu/>)

PhD, Cornell University

G'Ra Asim (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/gra-asim/>)

MFA, Columbia University

Chris Eng (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/chris-eng/>)

PhD, City University of New York

Gabi Kirilloff (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/gabrielle-kirilloff/>)

PhD, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Sarah Weston

PhD, Yale University

Teaching Professors

Jennifer Arch (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/jennifer-arch/>)

PhD, Washington University

Amy Pawl (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/amy-pawl/>)

PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Senior Lecturers

Bethany Daniels (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/bethany-daniels/>)

MA, University of Missouri–St. Louis

Erin Finneran (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/erin-finneran/>)

PhD, Washington University

Phil Maciak (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/phillip-maciak/>)

PhD, University of Pennsylvania

Heather McPherson (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/heather-mcpherson/>)

MFA, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Stephanie Pippin (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/stephanie-pippin/>)

MFA, Washington University

Martin Riker (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/martin-riker/>)

PhD, University of Denver

Writers-in-Residence

Kathryn Davis (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/kathryn-davis/>)

BA, Goddard University

Kathleen Finneran (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/kathleen-finneran/>)

BA, Washington University

Niki Herd (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/niki-herd/>)

PhD, University of Houston

Marshall Klimasewiski (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/marshall-klimasewiski/>)

MFA, Bowling Green State University

Director of Creative Writing Program

David Schuman (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/david-schuman/>)

MFA, Washington University

Professors Emeriti

Miriam Bailin

PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Wayne Fields

Lynne Cooper Harvey Chair Emeritus in English

PhD, University of Chicago

David Lawton

FAAH, PhD, University of York

Naomi Lebowitz (<https://complit.wustl.edu/people/naomi-lebowitz/>)

PhD, Washington University

Robert Milder (<https://english.wustl.edu/people/robert-milder/>)

PhD, Harvard University

Vivian Pollak

PhD, Brandeis University

Carter C. Revard

PhD, Yale University

Richard Ruland

PhD, University of Michigan

Daniel Shea

PhD, Stanford University

Gary Wihl

PhD, Yale University

Steven Zwicker

PhD, Brown University

Degree Requirements

PhD in English and American Literature or English and Comparative Literature

The AM/PhD program in English at Washington University in St. Louis is a six-year course of study leading to a doctorate in English and American Literature or in English and Comparative Literature. All English graduate students take a minimum of 12 elective 3-credit courses at the 400 or 500 level, along with two compulsory classes: Introduction to Graduate Study and Practicum in the Teaching of

Composition. Aside from these two classes, there are no specific course requirements, although students must take at least two courses in historical periods before 1780 (not in the same period) and at least two in historical periods after 1780 (again, not in the same period).

For students entering in the fall semester of 2014 and after, at least six of the 12 elective courses must be 500-level, graduate-only seminars; four such 500-level seminars must be taken by students who entered in the fall of 2013 or before. Students are encouraged to enroll in courses of special interest in other departments or programs, whether or not they are cross-listed with the English department; however, at least eight of their 12 electives must be home-based English courses, including (save in exceptional cases) at least six of their seminars.

The English department requires a minimum of competency in one foreign language, ancient or modern, for all doctoral candidates. "Competency" is understood as a basic comprehension of the grammar, structure and core vocabulary of a language. Native speakers of another language or students who have had two full years of undergraduate language study with a grade average of B+ or better will be considered to have satisfied the competency requirement. Other students may demonstrate competency either by taking an introductory reading course designed for graduate students or by passing a translation exam administered by the appropriate language department.

It is assumed that all entering graduate students are aiming for the PhD; the English department does not admit students aiming for a terminal AM degree. The AM is awarded during the course of study when a student has completed 36 credit units, usually at the end of the second year. To satisfy the Office of Graduate Studies, Arts & Sciences, requirement of demonstrated excellence, candidates for the AM may also be asked to submit a graded seminar essay (or the equivalent) for review by the English Graduate Committee.

Students entering the program with a master's degree in hand normally follow the standard first-year curriculum. At the end of their third semester, the director of graduate studies will review their AM credits taken elsewhere and determine how many credits (normally a limit of 9-12) may be applied toward the PhD at Washington University. Although students receiving transfer credit may be able to complete the PhD in fewer than six years, it is to their advantage to enter the program as first-year students, since this ensures them four full semesters of study without teaching responsibilities. If, after three semesters and the review of transfer credit, the director of graduate studies determines that the student has fulfilled the course requirements for the PhD, the student may elect not to take classes in semester four and instead to begin major field reading instead; their 6 credits of major field preparation during semester four will complete the requirements for the Washington University AM degree.

Students who wish to receive the combined PhD degree in English and Comparative Literature (<https://english.wustl.edu/phd-requirements/#anchor-group-10759>) may do so by fulfilling the English department's requirements for combined degrees. More information about the combined degree may be found on the departmental website.

During the first seven semesters, credits are earned by taking courses, independent study and directed reading. More precisely, students complete 13 courses (39 credits) total across years one and two; the Practicum in Teaching (3 credits) in the fall of year three; 6 credits of directed reading in the spring of year three; and 6 credits of directed reading in the fall of year four.