Reading books is the most glorious pastime that humankind has yet devised.

– Wisława Szymborska
Why choose Texas State?
Students have the extraordinary opportunity to hear and meet a wide variety of writers. Most authors stay for a few days, giving readings, attending receptions, visiting classes, and meeting with graduate students. Other major writers join the faculty for two-year terms.

Visiting writers have included Isabel Allende, Margaret Atwood, Allen Ginsberg, and Gary Snyder. Alkek Library holds the papers of such writers as Cormac McCarthy, Sandra Cisneros, and Sam Shepard.

Course Work
Class sizes range from 5-15 students, providing ample opportunity for interaction with faculty. Students select courses from a wide range of topics, periods, and genres in British and American literature. Regular offerings range from Anglo-Saxon literature to contemporary poetry, drama, fiction, and film. Students may choose a minor from dozens of other graduate programs, or they may choose an area of emphasis from a wide variety of specialties. In addition to more traditional literary studies, specialties include, among many others, women's studies, African-American literature, Chicano/Chicana literature, critical theory, children's literature, composition theory and practice, technical communication, and studies in the American Southwest.
Department Mission

The Department of English prepares students to:

» pursue further education and/or careers
» think, write, and speak clearly
» produce authoritative scholarship and inspiring creative work
» read with pleasure, skill, and understanding
» appreciate the power and subtlety of discourse in various media

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in literature will provide students with the ability to produce effective professional-level academic writing as well as independent and original research. Students will also develop a graduate-level ability to use current critical and theoretical approaches to literary study and to analyze a variety of literary texts through the synthesizing of literary characteristics, themes, and approaches.
Faculty
The graduate faculty’s diverse scholarly interests include medieval cosmology, political fiction, Irish literature, Canadian literature, women’s literature, children’s literature, critical theory, Beat poetry, literature and music, literature and art, science fiction, film, comics, Native-American literature, Jewish-American literature, experimental literature, Southwestern literature, and magical realism. The professors have received many teaching and research awards and have published hundreds of books and articles.

Career Options
Most literature graduates go into teaching, whether on the secondary, community-college, or university level. Those seeking university teaching have been admitted to more than 50 doctoral programs, and many now hold tenure-track and tenured positions. Many others have gone into related fields, such as professional writing, editing, and publishing, while some are in other careers which call for outstanding critical thinking and verbal expression.
Important Deadlines*

Admissions
Priority Fall: January 15
Fall: June 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15
Summer midterm: June 1

Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/literature
The program has been a source of support for me well beyond my time at Texas State.

– Karen Royall, Associate Professor at Austin Community College