The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Literature Program at Texas State University offers students an array of possibilities. Classes are small, providing ample opportunity for association with faculty and visiting writers. Students select courses from a wide range of topics, periods and genres in British and American literature, as well as in critical theory. Regular offerings range from Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose to contemporary poetry, drama, film, and fiction.

Students may choose a minor from dozens of other graduate programs across the university, or they may choose an area of emphasis from a wide variety of specialties. In addition to traditional literary studies, specialties include African-American literature, Chicano/Chicana literature, children's literature, composition theory and practice, critical theory and applied criticism, studies in the American Southwest, technical communication and women's studies.

The graduate faculty's diverse scholarly interests include medieval cosmology, political fiction, medieval pilgrimage literature, Irish and Canadian literature, women's literature, Beat poetry, literature and music, Native-American literature, and magical realism. The professors have received many grants and awards, and have published hundreds of books and articles.
**Course Work**

Students pursuing an M.A. in Literature may choose either a thesis or a non-thesis track.

- **Thesis option**: requires 30 hours, including 18 hours of graduate English courses, six hours of credit for a thesis, and six hours in an approved graduate minor or area of emphasis (an individually tailored cognate made up of at least two graduate courses related by genre, period, or subject)
- **Non-thesis option**: requires 36 hours, including 27 hours in graduate English and nine hours in an approved minor or area of emphasis

All students earning an M.A. with a Major in Literature complete the following courses:

- Literary Scholarship
- at least one course in medieval literature
- at least one course in Renaissance literature
- at least three courses in literature after the Renaissance, including at least one British literature course and at least one American literature class

Our classes are seminars, with a maximum of 15 students, and meet once each week, in the evening or late afternoon.

**Visiting Writers**

An extraordinary feature of the program is the opportunity to hear and meet a remarkable variety of great writers. Short-term guests have included, among a great many others:

Isabel Allende, Margaret Atwood, John Barth, Ann Beattie, Joseph Brodsky, Sandra Cisneros, James Dickey, Rita Dove, Roddy Doyle, Allen Ginsberg, Nikki Giovanni, Ken Kesey, Maxine Hong Kinston, Denise Levertov, Larry McMurtry, W.S. Merwin, James Michener, Annie Proulx, Gary Snyder, Robert Stone, William T. Vollmann, Alice Walker

Most of these writers stay for a few days, giving two readings, attending two receptions open to students, visiting a class, and holding a question-and-answer session for graduate students.

Other writers join the Department of English for a full year, visiting classes and giving readings and lectures. These have included Denis Johnson, Li-Young Lee, Tim O’Brien, and Leslie Marmon Silko. Few programs anywhere offer personal contact with such a distinguished array of literary talent.

**Admission Policy**

All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university. A minimum GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 undergraduate semester hours of letter-grade work earned before receipt of the bachelor’s degree (plus any previously completed graduate or professional work) is required.

Applicants gain regular admission if they have completed:

- a minimum of 24 hours of undergraduate English, including at least 12 upper-division hours, with a 3.25 or higher GPA in those courses
- a minimum of six hours (or the equivalent) in a foreign language

Submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through Apply Texas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each college or university attended

If the English GPA is not at the preferred level of 3.25, but is at least 3.0, you will be notified that your application may be considered if you submit a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with a preferred score. See [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/lit](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/lit) for details regarding the GRE requirement. In addition to the GRE, applicants must submit the following to the Graduate College in order to be considered for conditional admission:

- two letters of recommendation
- writing sample of non-fiction prose, preferably literary analysis

Visit [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply) for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. Applications are due June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for the summer semester.

**Financial Assistance**

The Department of English awards two types of assistantships. Current graduate students and applicants for graduate study are eligible to apply for appointments as Instructional Assistants. Those who will have completed 18 graduate hours in English and who have sufficient teaching experience may be considered for appointments as teaching assistants. To be considered for an appointment, applicants must have at least 12 required credit hours remaining to complete in their degree plan during the year in which they will hold the appointment.

Several tutoring positions are available to graduate students each year in the Department’s Writing Center. Tutors earn an hourly wage and gain valuable experience. For details, call 512.245.3018.

To see a list of scholarships available from the Department of English, visit [www.english.txstate.edu/studentresources/deptscholarships.html](http://www.english.txstate.edu/studentresources/deptscholarships.html).

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) and click on *Financing Your Graduate Education*. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

**Contact**

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