

## PROGRAM

The Master of Arts degree program in English at Iowa State University offers five areas of specialization for the advanced study of writing, language, and literature:

- Business and technical communication
- Creative writing
- Literature
- Rhetoric and composition
- Teaching English as a second language/linguistics (TESL)

**Optional: You may complete a graduate minor outside the Department of English.**

## APPLICATION

To apply for admission to graduate studies at Iowa State University, send the following materials to:

### The Office of Admissions

- A completed application form,
- An official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate work, and
- TOEFL scores (nonnative speakers only; minimum score required is 600).

### The Graduate English Office

- A letter stating your interests in and your objectives for graduate study in English (if you are seeking a teaching or research assistantship you should briefly outline any relevant experience or accomplishments);
- Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your qualifications for graduate study;
- GRE General Test Scores; and
- A sample (at least 1,000 words) of your expository or critical prose.
- **If** you are applying in the creative writing area, a portfolio of your poetry, fiction, or drama.
- **If** you are a nonnative speaker, a cassette tape of your extemporaneous spoken English.

Applications for admission normally are accepted up to one month (three months for foreign applicants) prior to the beginning of the semester you wish to enroll. You may begin your study fall, spring, or summer term.

# INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGLISH



Department of English  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa 50011

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AMES, IOWA 50319

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Regardless of your area of specialization, you must meet the following requirements.

### General

The master's degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of course work. At least 22 of these hours must be earned at Iowa State University.

### Literature and linguistics (9 hrs.)

Option 1—One graduate course in linguistics and two graduate courses in literature.

Option 2—Two graduate courses in linguistics and one graduate course in literature.

### Additional Courses (18 hrs.)

See enclosed pamphlet(s). You may take up to 9 hours outside the English department in meeting this 18-hour requirement.

### Thesis or project (3 hrs.)

Your thesis or project will take one of the following forms:

- A critical or scholarly paper of carefully defined and limited dimensions;
- A substantial piece of imaginative writing;
- A pedagogical or professional project appropriate to your program of study.

You will defend your thesis or project in a final oral examination.

### Language

You may satisfy the language requirement through a number of options:

- Previous language study;
- Satisfactory performance on a standardized test such as the GSFLT;
- Additional graduate-level linguistics courses.

### Academic load

Full-time graduate students enroll for 9 to 15 credits per semester. Teaching or research assistants normally carry 6 to 9 credits per semester.

## ASSISTANTSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Entering graduate students may apply for teaching or research assistantships. All assistants pay reduced in-state tuition.

If you are awarded a teaching assistantship, you will teach classes in either freshman composition or English as a second language. All teaching assistants receive the benefits of a comprehensive training program and close faculty support. Those teaching freshman composition also complete a required 3-hour course on theory and practice of teaching writing.

If you are awarded a research assistantship, you will work with departmental programs or with individual faculty members on projects in language and literature.

Pearl Hogrefe fellowships are available for creative writers enrolled in any Iowa State University graduate program. Hogrefe fellows receive a monthly stipend and pay no tuition.

Hogrefe fellowships and most assistantships are awarded in early April. If you wish to apply for these, you should submit your materials as early as possible.

