



Overview

The MA Concentration in Literature is recommended for students preparing to teach at the community college level, for those whose objective is to pursue a PhD in literature, and for high school teachers seeking to advance their understanding of literature and literary theory.

A. Required Core Curricula: 16 units

The required core consists of the four courses listed below. ENGL 200A is the introductory graduate-studies course and should be taken as soon as possible. ENGL 201D and ENGL 275 build upon and develop the concepts and skills that are introduced in ENGL 200A. In order to satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWAR) and Advance to Candidacy, students must receive a grade of “B” or higher in ENGL 200A or 220A.

- ENGL 200A: “Methods and Materials of Literary Research” (4 units)
- ENGL 201D: “Contemporary Theory” (4 units)
- ENGL 275: “Seminar in Literary History” (4 units)
- ENGL 220A: “Teaching College Composition” (4 units)

B. Additional Required Coursework: 12 units

English MA-Literature students must take one graduate seminar in British literature (any four-unit course from the ENGL 240 series), one in American literature (any four-unit course from the ENGL 250 or 280 series, and one additional elective.

- ENGL 240 British Literature (4 units)
- ENGL 250 American Literature **OR** ENGL 280 Minority/Ethnic Literature (4 units)
- One four-unit course from any of the following series: ENGL 100, 140, 141, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 180, 185, 240, 250, 260, 265, 280; **OR** 190Q, 299, 410F

C. Culminating Experience—Comprehensive Exam or Thesis: 2 units

All English MA students complete the degree with a two-unit culminating experience: ENGL 500. The culminating experience for the Literature concentration is ordinarily the Comprehensive Examination. Literature students who have earned a GPA of 3.7 or better in 21 units of graduate study may opt to fulfill the culminating experience requirement by writing a thesis, provided they have two faculty willing to read and direct the thesis.

- ENGL 500 Culminating Experience—Comprehensive Exam or Thesis (2 units)

Additional Information

- Students must complete 30 units of coursework for the MA.
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. No units with a grade lower than “C” may apply towards the degree.
- Any deviation or substitutions for any of the required or elective courses should be discussed in advance with the Literature Coordinator and with the Graduate Coordinator, whose approval must be obtained.

Recommended Course Sequencing

Because most 200-level classes are offered only once per year, it is important that you plan your coursework carefully so as not to delay your graduation. To complete the MA in two years, the following sequence is recommended for full-time students enrolled in eight units per semester:

	Fall	Spring
Year 1	ENGL 200A ENGL 240/250/280	ENGL 201D ENGL 240/250/280
Year 2	ENGL 220A ENGL 100 or 200 elective	ENGL 275 ENGL 500

Advancing to Candidacy

Once you have completed 12 units toward the MA, you become eligible to advance to candidacy. You must have an approved Advancement to Candidacy form on file with the Office of Graduate Studies before you can enroll in ENGL 500, the culminating experience. Plan to file for Advancement to Candidacy no later than one semester prior to your enrollment in ENGL 500; please note that the deadline for advancing to candidacy is typically early in the semester and that late applications will not be considered. Please see the English Department websites for instructions on filing your Advancement to Candidacy.

Enrolling in ENGL 500—Comprehensive Exam or Thesis

Eligibility to enroll in ENGL 500 requires the following:

1. You must have an approved Advancement to Candidacy on file with the Office of Graduate Studies. Please review your transcript, which will indicate your Advancement to Candidacy after it has been approved.
2. You must have completed, or be in the process of completing, all graduate coursework during the semester in which you enroll in ENGL 500.
3. Your transcript must include no more than one grade of Incomplete.
4. Thesis writers must have a minimum GPA of 3.7 and must have established a thesis committee consisting of two faculty readers. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange the committee. Please note that while most exam-takers complete ENGL 500 in a single semester, most thesis writers take more than one semester to finish.
5. Thesis writers must submit a completed thesis prospectus, approved by the thesis committee.
6. When the conditions above are met, please submit to the English Department the appropriate form during registration:
 - [Permission to Enroll in ENGL 500—Exam](#)
 - [Permission to Enroll in ENGL 500—Thesis](#)

Questions?

If you have questions or need advising, please contact the Graduate Coordinator by emailing engl-grad@csus.edu