

# Graduate Studies Programs

## *Master of Arts in English*

### About the Program

The Master of Arts in English program provides a strong foundation in English, American, and comparative literature and in literary theory and analysis. This versatile program includes a broad offering of courses, personalized plans of study, and an opportunity to take courses in writing or writing instruction. Students may design a program of study that combines the traditional and the cutting edge, with course topics ranging from Shakespeare, Chaucer, and classic American writers to postcolonial fiction, the post modern novel, and feminist theory. The Simmons English program attracts men and women who wish to teach, as well as those who plan to pursue a Ph.D. or a profession that requires a strong foundation in writing or in the critical analysis of literature. Students enjoy a collegial relationship with faculty who are award-winning poets and playwrights, authors, reviewers, and nationally known scholars. Faculty areas of interest span historical periods, genres, and cultures, including the Bible, Romantic poetry, Native American studies, Victorian literature, children's literature, film theory, ethnic literature, and writing pedagogy.

### Degree Requirements

The 32-credit English program is individually prescribed; the student is permitted to take certain courses in subjects closely adjacent to English provided these courses are directly relevant to a coherent plan of graduate work. Each student entering the program is required to take ENGL 405, Contemporary Critical Theory, unless he/she has had the equivalent. The department advises one course in medieval or Renaissance literature unless the student has already successfully completed such a course. A master's thesis is optional; students may elect to write a thesis as one of their courses. The remainder of the program is elected from courses best adapted to the student's needs and interests as determined in consultation with the program director. A reading knowledge of one foreign language is required and may be fulfilled by taking a brief translation exam any time before receiving the degree. A full course load is three courses per semester. Although the program may be completed in one academic year, including summer study, most choose to complete the program over three or four semesters in order to explore their interests more thoroughly. Part-time students may take up to seven years to complete the degree.

*“Although I always loved literature and writing, my M.A. in English helped me to define myself as a professional writer. Simmons gave me a very solid educational base and the confidence to live and survive as a writer.”*

NATHALIE HANDAL '91, '93GS  
M.A. IN ENGLISH  
POET, PLAYWRIGHT, AND WRITER



**SIMMONS**  
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

## Admission Requirements

Admission requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a strong undergraduate record. The applicant for admission must submit official transcripts of all undergraduate coursework, a statement of purpose, a critical writing sample, and two academic recommendations. An interview is optional. Students are admitted to this program in for the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

## Dual Degree in Children's Literature and English

This 56 credit program consists of seven courses in Children's Literature and seven courses in English. The Children's Literature component includes five core courses and two elective courses. The seven English courses include Contemporary Critical Theory (ENGL 405) and six English electives. For a list of Children's Literature courses, please reference the course catalog.

## English Coursework

ENGL 400	Directed Study: Graduate Level
ENGL 402	Seminar in the Teaching of Writing
ENGL 405	Contemporary Critical Theory
ENGL/GCS 406	Feminism and Literature
ENGL/GCS 412	Special Topics:Theoretical Approaches to Cultural Narratives
ENGL 504	Problems in Romantic Literature: The Romantic Rebel
ENGL 505	Advanced Creative Writing: Non-Fiction
ENGL 506	Victorian Literature and Culture
ENGL 507	Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf
ENGL 508	The Postcolonial Novel
ENGL 510	Advanced Poetry Workshop
ENGL/CHL 511	Victorian Children's Literature
ENGL 512	Classic American Writers
ENGL 513	Survey of Literature for Children and Young Adults
ENGL 514	The Invented Self in Modern American Fiction
ENGL 515	Topics in Early Literature: Chaucer's <i>Canterbury Tales</i> and Its Milieu
ENGL 518	The Dramatic Imagination in America
ENGL 520	American Women's Poetry
ENGL 521	Studies in Shakespeare
ENGL 522	The Postmodern Novel
ENGL 523	Special Topics in Literature
ENGL 524	James Joyce
ENGL 525	Modern Irish Literature
ENGL 526	Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Literature
ENGL 542	Studies in 18th Century Literature

## Contact Us

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