English

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Saint Louis University's graduate program in English provides students with scholarly training in English language and literature. Encountering courses that span the full experience of works in the English language — from Old Norse to Shakespeare to contemporary and postcolonial writing — students have the chance to pursue specializations in a great variety of literary fields and in the study of rhetoric and composition. The department aims to provide graduate assistantships to all students entering the program. The typical assistantship affords two years of support for master's candidates and at least four years of support for doctoral candidates in the form of a nine-month stipend (currently $18,000), 18 credit hours of tuition remission annually and health insurance.

M.A.: The nonthesis option for the Master of Arts degree requires 30 credit hours of coursework beyond the B.A. The thesis option, which is recommended for those interested in eventually pursuing a Ph.D., permits students to substitute a thesis for six of the 30 required credit hours of coursework. Both options are normally completed in two years. M.A. students planning to teach at Saint Louis University are required to take a class in the teaching of writing in their first semester, and all must take courses in the methods of literary research and critical theory; other coursework is elective. At the conclusion of their coursework, students pursuing the nonthesis option take a one-hour oral examination on works drawn from a list that is made available to them at the outset of their program. Students pursuing the thesis option select a topic in consultation with a director, have their completed thesis reviewed by a board consisting of the director and two other faculty members, and are then examined orally over both the thesis and the general M.A. reading list. Both the thesis and nonthesis options for the M.A. program are also offered at Saint Louis University's Madrid campus.

Ph.D.: The doctoral degree requires a minimum of 24 credit hours of coursework beyond the M.A., followed by the doctoral competency exam, which has a written and an oral component. The written component takes the form of a competency essay, written over the course of seven days. During the oral exam, students will be asked questions about the competency essay, as well as texts on their preparatory reading list. Before taking their comprehensive exams, all Ph.D. candidates must display reading proficiency in one modern foreign language relevant to their research. Students concentrating in medieval or renaissance literature also need to demonstrate competence in either Latin or classical Greek.

The current doctoral “tracks” among which the student selects are:

- Anglo-Saxon and medieval literature
- Medieval and early 16th-century British literature
- Early modern British literature
- The British long 19th century
- 19th-century American literature
- Modern Irish literature
- 20th-century British literature and cultural contexts
- 20th- and 21st-century American literature
- Transatlantic modernisms
- Contemporary postcolonial/non-Western literatures and cultures
- Rhetoric and composition
- Life writing

Career Paths:
Possible careers for graduates include college/university professor, community college professor, a wide array of research and publishing positions, and high school teacher or administrator.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Joe Weixlmann, Graduate Director

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PHONE | 314-977-3720
WEB | slu.edu/x18505.xml

APPLICATION DEADLINE

M.A. | Ph.D.

FALL | Jan. 1 | Jan. 1
SPRING | N/A | N/A
SUMMER | N/A | N/A

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DEGREES OFFERED

- Master of Arts (M.A.) in English
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English

COURSES AVAILABLE

DAYS | NIGHTS | WEEKENDS | ONLINE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE G scores
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement
- Writing sample (10 pages)

ADMISSION CRITERIA

M.A.:
A B.A. in English (or at least 18 credit hours of successful work in upper-division courses in English) is required. Applicants with different majors who possess strong backgrounds in English and American literature also will be considered.

Ph.D.:
An M.A. in English is required, though students from other fields with strong backgrounds in English literature will be considered. Students with a B.A. seeking admission directly to the Ph.D. program still need to complete the M.A.
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE EDUCATION

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

English

FACULTY

Paul Acker, Ph.D.: Old English, Middle English and Old Norse literature; critical theory
Saher Alam, M.A.: Creative writing (fiction), 20th-century fiction, contemporary immigrant fiction
Toby R. Benis, Ph.D.: British Romanticism, women writers of the British Romantic period
Harold K. Bush Jr., Ph.D.: American literature and studies, historical approaches to literature
Vincent Casaregola, Ph.D.: American literature, film and cultural studies (1900–present)
Stephen Casmier, Ph.D.: African American and African literature, theory and expressive culture
Juliana Chow, Ph.D.: 19th- and 20th-century American literature and culture, ecocriticism
Ellen Crowell, Ph.D.: Modernist studies, modernism in the 19th century, queer theory
Ruth Evans, Ph.D.: Chaucer, critical theory, Middle English drama, medieval virginity
Nathan Grant, Ph.D.: African American literature, culture and intellectual history
Antony J. Hasler, Ph.D.: Late medieval and early modern literature, Scottish literature
Devin Johnston, Ph.D.: American modernism; contemporary American, British and Irish poetry
Georgia Johnston, Ph.D.: 20th-century British literature, autobiography, creative writing (poetry)
Paul Lynch, Ph.D.: Composition pedagogy, rhetorical theory and history, casuistry
Janice McIntire-Strasburg, Ph.D.: Computers and writing, Mark Twain, American literature
Nathaniel Rivers, Ph.D.: Rhetorical history and theory, technical writing, new media
Jennifer Rust, Ph.D.: 16th- and 17th-century English literature, Shakespeare, political theology
Jonathan Sawday, Ph.D.: Early modern British literature and culture (16th, 17th and 18th centuries)
Rachel Greenwald Smith, Ph.D.: 20th- and 21st-century American literature and culture
Anne Stiles, Ph.D.: 19th-century British, American and Edwardian literature; Gothic novels
Donald Stump, Ph.D.: Renaissance literature, drama, the Bible and English literature
Joya Uraizee, Ph.D.: Postcolonial literature and theory, film studies, African literature and culture
Sara van den Berg, Ph.D.: Ben Jonson, Milton, 17th-century literature, psychoanalytic theory
Joe Weixlmann, Ph.D.: African American literature and culture, contemporary American fiction
Phyllis Weliver, D.Phil.: Victorian literature and culture, music and literature, women’s studies

DEGREES OFFERED

• Master of Arts (M.A.) in English
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE G scores
• Résumé
• Professional goal statement
• Writing sample (10 pages)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The department offers teaching assistantships that carry a stipend for nine months, full tuition remission for up to nine credit hours per semester and comprehensive health insurance. Also available are presidential, diversity and dissertation fellowships.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DAYS [ ] NIGHTS [ ] WEEKENDS [ ] ONLINE [ ]