English
+ College of Arts and Sciences

Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses - in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University is celebrating its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek a greater good.

OVERVIEW >>

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 and all must take courses in the methods of literary research and critical theory, as well as courses in four out of five required areas.

At the conclusion of their coursework, students pursuing the nonthesis option take a one-hour oral exam. 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 must pass an oral exam over both the thesis and the general M.A. reading list. Both the thesis and nonthesis options for the M.A. program are offered at Saint Louis University's Madrid campus.

Ph.D.:
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. All doctoral students must also take courses in three out of five required areas. Current doctoral tracks include:

- 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

The competency exam 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. After passing their exams, doctoral students write their dissertations. The time to degree is normally five years.

For more information on the M.A. and Ph.D. programs, curriculum, a typical sequence of courses and admission requirements please visit slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english
Both our master’s and doctoral students in English select their own examination advisers and have a prominent voice in shaping examination and thesis boards.

Reinforcing the voice our students have in important elements of their program is the English Graduate Organization, an active group that works with the faculty to promote the professionalization of graduate students through activities such as workshops on career preparation, trips to learned conferences and on-campus symposia.

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.

For information on scholarships and financial aid, please visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.