

English

Master of Arts

The University of North Dakota Department of English offers a varied program of studies in English and American literature, writing, and the English language. The academic atmosphere is intimate, class size for graduate courses is small, and students are encouraged to work closely with members of the graduate faculty. The curriculum varies from year to year and includes courses in American, British, and World literatures; critical theory; rhetoric and composition; cultural studies; creative writing; cinema and film theory; and linguistics. Faculty in the Department also work in interdisciplinary areas such as American Indian Studies, Peace Studies, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and Women Studies. Students are encouraged to utilize a variety of critical and theoretical approaches. The Department sponsors an annual week-long writers conference that gives graduate students a chance to hear contemporary writers read their work and discuss the writing process. Visitors have included Czeslaw Milosz, Louise Erdrich, Larry McMurtry, Leslie Silko, James Welch, August Wilson, Luisa Valenzuela, Peter Matthiessen, Tim O'Brien and Ursula Hegi.

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission must be completed by March 1 for full consideration and Teaching Assistantships.

1. A four-year bachelor's degree from a recognized college or university.
2. Twenty semester credits of English beyond the communication requirement with a 3.00 grade point average or better.
3. Undergraduate work in at least one language other than English equivalent to the first two college-level years or by demonstrating (by Educational Testing Service or by Languages Department examination) a reading knowledge of one language other than English or the satisfactory completion of two semesters each of two languages other than English. In some cases, students may be admitted without the language requirement and may complete it as part of the M.A. program.
4. A writing sample of 10-15 pages on topics or in modes appropriate to the proposed program of study (submitted directly to the department). Applicants who plan to major in creative writing should also submit an analytical paper.
5. Graduate Record Examination General Test required. Literature in English Advanced Test is recommended.
6. A minimum TOEFL Score of 550 on the paper-based test or 213 on the computer-based test, or for the Internet based TOEFL, a composite score of 79, with minimum scores of 21/30 (Speaking*); 19/30 (Listening); 19/30 (Reading); and 17/30 (Writing) for applicants whose native language is not English. Applicants may also meet language requirements by presenting IETLS scores of 6.5. *Applicants being considered for Graduate Teaching Assistantships must achieve these minimum TOEFL scores, but have a minimum score of 26/30 on the Speaking subtest.
7. Students who have received a bachelor's degree or higher from the United States or English-speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL. Applicants may also meet language requirements by presenting IETLS scores of 6.5.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the Graduate School as well as particular requirements set forth by the English Language and Literature Department.

1. Thirty credit hours are needed for the M.A., including the required courses listed below, the thesis (4 credits), and any Readings/Research courses (maximum 4 credits).
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500- level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. English 500; English 501 and 501L (for Graduate Teaching Assistants only); and either English 510 or 511. Courses must be completed with grades of A or B (S for 501L).
5. Up to 4 credits of Readings and Research courses (English 590 and 593) may be used to supplement the standard graduate offerings.
6. Four credits are allowed for the thesis.
7. Required courses as listed in the Academic Catalog

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

- **Beard, Michael** Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor. Comparative literature (especially relations between Europe and the Islamic world); modern period; literary criticism: especially genre theory and theory of translation; the novel; the seventeenth century; James Joyce; popular culture; Italian language and literature

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- **Carson, Sharon** American literature (nineteenth century abolition and reconstruction literature, novel as social criticism); African-American literature; interdisciplinary Black Studies; twentieth century novel as social criticism; Bible as literature; comparative religion and literature
- **Conway, Kyle** Media globalization and translation, particularly questions of national identity and media policy
- **Czerwiec, Heidi** Poetry writing; Metaphysical, Romantic, twentieth-century, and contemporary poetry, Anglo-Saxon and German literature
- **Dixon, Kathleen** Rhetoric and cultural studies (gender and culture in language); women's studies; popular culture studies; pedagogical theory and praxis; literature generalist
- **Donaldson, Sandra** Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor. Scholarly editing, Victorian literature, women writers and feminist literary criticism, poetry, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Virginia Woolf
- **Donehower-Weinstein, Kim** Literacy studies; composition studies; English education; literature generalist
- **Flynn, Mike** Romantic and Victorian literature; intertextuality; literary rivalry; the professionalization of authorship; the history of publishing; nineteenth-century science; nineteenth-century religion; nineteenth-century art; medievalism
- **Harris-Behling, Elizabeth** Fiction writing; contemporary American short story; literary translation; Italian literature and language
- **Huang, Xiaozhao** Sociolinguistics; dialectology; teaching English to speakers of other languages; applied linguistics; grammatical analysis
- **Kitzes, Adam** Renaissance and early modern literature, including Shakespeare, Milton, 17th century drama and prose, literature of the English civil war; literature and psychology; history of literary criticism
- **Koepke, Yvette** Early modern British literature, especially non-dramatic; women writers; critical theory, especially feminist; women's studies; history and theory of science and medicine; medical humanities, including premedical and medical education
- **Koprince, Susan** American literature, especially twentieth century fiction and drama; English education; American women writers (Wharton, Cather)
- **Nelson, Chris** 19th and 20th Century literatures and cultures of the Americas, particularly minority literatures and cultures; Native American literature and theory; Literary theory, especially cultural studies, postcolonial and postmodern theories, and discipline formation, with particular attention to issues of social justice
- **O'Donnell, Sheryl** Department Chair. Restoration and eighteenth century literature; Renaissance non-dramatic literature; women's studies; popular culture; literary theory; discourse of agriculture
- **Ommen, Brett** Rhetorical theory in new media uses and technologies
- **Robison, Lori** Academic Director of Composition. American literature and culture (especially the nineteenth century); women's literature; African-American literature; regionalism (particularly of the American south); cultural studies (including the construction of race and theories of the sentimental); pedagogy and composition theory
- **Sauer, Michelle** Middle English literature & language; history of the English language; anchoritic, eremitic, and monastic texts; hagiography; Anglo Saxon language & literature; pre-modern women's literature; literature of the European Middle Ages; gender/queer theory; feminist studies
- **Shafer, Richard** Journalism, mass media, development communication for a Free Press.
- **Weaver-Hightower, Rebecca** Colonial and postcolonial studies; 19th and 20th century British and Irish literature; Australian, Caribbean, South African and Canadian literature; psychoanalytic and psychological criticisms; cultural studies; new historicism; visual media (including book illustrations and film); landscape and literature (especially islands)
- **Wolfe, Eric** Director of Graduate Studies. American literature and culture (especially from the beginnings through the nineteenth century); cultural studies; literary theory (including deconstruction and psychoanalysis); political and democratic theory; law and literature.

Contact Information

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