English, MA, MTC

Specialization(s): Literature and Writing; Technical Writing
Department: English Department
College: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The master's degree in English is a great program for students who are looking for a broad education in English. Students are able to take a variety of classes and gain a broad base of knowledge to prepare them for further education or teaching. Students receive the kind of training necessary to prepare them for the professional world of academia. They are able to gain experience presenting their work at conferences and submitting for publication.

The **MA** degree requires students to gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages. The **MS** degree is identical except that it does not require foreign language study.

Distance Education

The Master of Technical Communication is only available online through USU-Online.

Career Options

Most students pursuing a master's degree in English have plans to go on to doctoral programs and academia. They may also teach at two-year colleges, or end up in various professions across the career spectrum as a result of the broad education received in the master's degree program. Students pursuing the technical writing specialization are typically already employed as working professionals in the field of technical communication.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

Students from various majors are welcome to apply; however, for the literature and writing specialization, it is preferred that students have experience in undergraduate literature courses. For the technical writing specialization, students may come from any undergraduate background, but they must have workplace experience in professional communication.

Application Requirements:

- Fill out the online application
- Pay the $55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on in the GRE or MAT
- Provide a copy of your transcript
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation
- Submit writing samples to the English Department. Students may submit more than one sample, each sample must have an introductory paragraph or preface and the writing sample must equal at least 10 pages in total of academic writing. Applicants for the technical writing specilization must submit samples of technical/practical communication writing rather than academic writing.

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Admissions Deadlines

Literature and Writing specialization:

- Fall semester – January 15
- Applications received after that date will be reviewed if there is still space available in the program. However,

for the best chance at being offered a position as a graduate instructor, students must have their applications submitted by January 15.

Technical Writing specialization:

- Summer or fall semesters – March 1
- Spring semester – November 1

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students with a **literature and writing** specialization and **American Studies** Degree can receive the MS or MA by pursuing one of two options:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.
- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Students in the online **technical writing** specialization complete the MS by completing the **Plan C** option, which does not involve a thesis or a defense meeting and is comprised of coursework only.

Financial Assistance

Students can apply to become graduate instructors. Graduate instructors teach English 1010 and English 2010, general education courses that all USU undergraduates are required to take. Students who are graduate instructors might also receive tuition awards through the School of Graduate Studies, as well as subsidized health insurance, in addition to the following salaries:

- **First-year** GIs in the English Department are currently paid $2,251 per class. Since most teach two classes in fall and another two in spring, this works out as a typical annual salary of $9,004.
- **Second-year** GIs are currently paid $2,545 per class, which works out as a typical annual salary of $10,180.

Additionally, the cost of living in Logan, Utah, is about 12% lower than the national average.

To be considered, students must submit their graduate school applications early and submit a specific application to be a graduate instructor, as well as a letter of interest and a resume, by January 15 to Dr. Christine Cooper Rompato, Director of Graduate Studies in English.

Graduate instructors must be full-time, on-campus students; therefore, as the technical writing specialization is offered entirely online, students pursuing this specialization are not eligible to apply to become graduate instructors.

A variety of additional funding opportunities are available, including fellowships, scholarships, and travel support.

Program Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Master of Arts**.

Click here to see course requirements for the **Master of Technical Communication**.

Contact

Advisor(s)

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Student Association for Graduates of English: SAGE is a graduate student association. Students meet and hold workshops on various subjects, namely how to present at conferences and information on PhD programs.

Society for Technical Communication: STC is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. Worldwide, the STC has 25,000 members including writers, editors, documentation specialists, visual designers, web designers and developers, and more.

Labs, Centers, Research

Creative Learning Environments Laboratory: The CLE is a dedicated research space of interdisciplinary emphasis within the Department of Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences and in conjunction with the Center for Open and Sustainable Learning (COSL). CLE is comprised of educators and students dedicated to researching educational applications of rich sensory-based technological media.

Fife Folklore Archives: The Fife Folklore Archives is one of the largest repositories of American folklore in the United States. The FFA is part of Utah State University's Special Collections and Archives, where the historical American Folklore Society Manuscript Collection is housed.

Interactive Media Research Laboratory: This focuses on researching and developing protocols that enhance cognition in digital environments. The lab strives to evaluate the full spectrum of digital media and identify successful approaches to communication, entertainment, and education.

Learning Suite: The Learning Suite is comprised of two student computer labs: the Teaching Lab and the Open-Access Lab. The Learning Suite strives to foster an environment where communication can develop between students, instructors, and their audiences. It supports communication as any expression through the medians of written text, graphics, sound, and still and moving images, and updates its technology to provide as much support as possible for these forms of communication.

Writing Center: The Writing Center provides tutoring services for students across the university with either face-to-face or online help, allowing them to implement and improve upon concepts introduced in class. Students can work as tutors in the writing center which will help them gain experience in writing. Graduate instructors in the English Department are required to work two hours each week in the Writing Center.