

Welcome to the English Department at UNLV. We offer programs recognized internationally for their excellence and for their innovative response to both traditional and contemporary issues of language, writing, and literature. The department offers programs of study leading to the Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

The MA program involves graduate coursework in British and American literature or in undergraduate work in English and to familiarize the student with professional standards, research methods, and modes of thought in the discipline. Possession of this degree typically leads to professional advancement for the secondary school or community college teacher; to careers in writing, editing, and publishing; or to further study in English at the doctoral level.

The PhD Literature Track is a highly specialized course of study designed to develop a capacity for research, original thought, and academic writing and to equip students for careers in the teaching of English at the college or university level and in writing, editing, and publishing. The program emphasizes literary studies, although a concentration of six credit hours may be earned in composition studies. Each student chooses three areas in which to specialize: (1) a chronological period, (2) a literary genre, and (3) an author. In addition, a student may choose to specialize in a chronological period, a major author, or a special degree of professional expertise in the three chosen areas of specialization. Such knowledge is tested in a qualifying examination and is also the basis upon which the student writes the doctoral dissertation.

Megan Becke Ph.D., Chair
John Hay Ph.D., Director of Graduate Studies

Mission Statement

The graduate faculty in English at UNLV are dedicated to the mentoring of each student. Individual attention to student progress and research goals is paramount. Throughout the academic year, the department offers activities designed to prepare degree candidates for the job market and for college and univer

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold the appropriately approved graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#)

Master of Arts in English

Literature Emphasis (Thesis and Non-Thesis Options)
Writing and Rhetoric Emphasis (Thesis and Non-Thesis Options)
Advanced (Thesis and Non-Thesis Options)

Ph.D. in English

Post Doctoral Fellow
Literature
Creative
Dissertation
Post Doctoral Fellow
Literature

Contact Information

English Department:

[Website](#)

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Graduate College:

Main Office

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International Graduate Student Services

internationalgrad@unlv.edu 702 895 3367

Student Financial Services

gradfinancialsvc@unlv.edu 702 895 4273

*for help related to Graduate Assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships

Retention Promotion and Completion (RPC) Team*

grad.rpc@unlv.edu 702

Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework and culminating experience for the MA and PhD](#) are found in the [graduate catalog](#)

Advisory Committee Guidelines

All MA and PhD students in English will organize a committee of at least three department members, one of whom must be appointed from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. This committee will guide, examine, and mentor the student throughout the graduate experience. They will also sign many of the forms and documents required after each step in the process. See the Graduate Catalog for further committee appointment guidelines.

Until they form advisory committees, the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) serves as academic advisor to all MA and PhD students.

Degree Program Benchmarks

MA and PhD Literature Track students must demonstrate either knowledge of one foreign language or, with approval of the academic advisor, competency in one computer language. MA students are strongly encouraged to fulfill the language requirement before submitting the Appointment of Advisory Committee Form and they do so before submitting the Culminating Experience Results Form. PhD students are expected to fulfill the language requirement before submitting the Advancement to Doctoral Candidacy Form.

The practical goal of the language requirement is to prepare students to read literary and critical works in languages other than English. Our faculty believe that all students, regardless of career path or field of specialization, gain substantially by engaging in language study, by situating their work by making meaningful connections with non-English speaking cultures and conversations. At the same time, we recognize that facility in computer languages may be equally important to the intellectual and professional development of some students.

Each student should thus choose consultation with the DGS and their academic advisor in the language most appropriate to his/her/their academic program, field(s) of specialization, intellectual projects, and career goals. Students are urged to consult with their advisors and advisory committees about the language competencies required or expected in a given field or for a particular dissertation project, as these may well differ from and exceed the minimum departmental requirements outlined here.

Reading knowledge of a foreign language may be demonstrated by passing a translation exam administered by the department or by earning a B or better either in a division or graduate course in the literature of a language, taken within seven years of enrollment, or in WLC 198, a translation course for graduate students offered in summer session by World Languages and Cultures.

Competency in a computer language is demonstrated by successful completion of an appropriate project supervised by UNLV faculty, with a grade of B or better.

All PhD students must submit a dissertation in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Graduate College in the graduate catalog at [Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines](#)

Before advancing to candidacy, submitting the Graduate College Advancement to Candidacy Form, or enrolling in ENG 799/Dissertation, doctoral students must both submit a dissertation prospectus to the advisory committee and meet with the entire committee for a prospectus defense ideally no later than the end of the semester following that in which the student passes Qualifying Exams.

Though the prospectus thus precedes the Advancement to Candidacy Form, as students begin thinking about the prospectus, to consider the three things about the dissertation they will be required to describe very briefly on that form, as students should be able to extract these from the prospectus:

The dissertation is the defining feature and culminating product of the doctoral degree, the fullest and

Generally speaking, no committee should move forward with a defense for a dissertation that its members consider to be of less than passable quality, either as is or with minor revisions. This is why it is imperative that all committee members have a chance to review drafts well in advance of the defense and to specify revisions required to ensure the dissertation is ready to defend.

The department, like the Graduate College, strongly recommends defenses (which must be held on campus), whenever possible. But both hybrid defenses (held on campus but allowing for remote participation) and remote defenses (conducted entirely via an approved online meeting space such as Zoom) are allowable in cases where an exclusively on-campus defense would either pose a serious health risk to, or entail financial hardship for, the candidate or any member of the advisory committee, all of whom must be either physically or virtually present for and participate fully in the entire defense. Per the Graduate College, should technical or other difficulties seriously interfere with that participation, the defense must be suspended and rescheduled.

Candidates are responsible for coordinating with their committee members to identify a date and time for the defense prior to the specified Graduate College deadline. In the case of hybrid and remote defenses, the department strongly recommends that the chair take responsibility for setting up the remote meeting; sending invitations to the candidate and committee members; and serving as host during the defense. For hybrid defenses, the chair should also work with department staff to ensure that the required technology is set up and operational at least fifteen minutes before the defense is scheduled to begin.

Two weeks before the defense, candidates must do the following:

- * arrange for the defense to be announced by both the Graduate College and the department by following [these Graduate College guidelines](#), remembering to include remote meeting link, ID, and password, if appropriate,

circumstances and with prior approval of the DGS, MA students may count only 6 credits of 600 level coursework toward the degree, only 700 level courses count toward the PhD.

600 level classes are cross-listed, and meet in conjunction with 400 level undergraduate classes, and graduate enrollment is generally capped at two. Graduate students are required to do additional readings, have different writing requirements, and are often expected to have additional meetings with the instructor outside of class. Because these courses enroll undergraduate, as well as graduate, students, our department can offer a greater variety of them in Fall and Spring than we can 700 level courses, and 600 level courses are typically the only graduate courses the department offers in summer (other than independent studies and thesis and dissertation hours).

Generally capped at twelve students, 700 level classes are exclusively designed for, and typically enroll only, graduate students (MA, MFA, and PhD).

Independent study courses (ENG 796), which are variably weighted from one to three credits each, are arranged between individual students and faculty, who together decide on their focus, modality, and requirements. Independent studies are designed to meet curricular needs not met by regular course offerings and to help students prepare for comprehensive and/or qualifying exams. When possible, however, students should enroll in regularly scheduled courses, as full student participation in 700 courses is necessary to ensure that they can be offered and that they provide a true seminar experience. Since ENG 796 does not automatically fulfill requirements for MA students in the Literature and Language/Composition Theory tracks, these students can count such courses toward their degree only if they receive advance approval from the DGS. PhD students may count up to two ENG 796 toward the degree. (See below for more information on how to register for ENG 796.)

ENG 798: Doctoral Research is a special independent study reserved for PhD students who, under an advisor's supervision, are conducting original research. Up to three credits of ENG 798 may be counted toward the PhD degree. (See below for information about registering for ENG 798.)

Course Scheduling

Course scheduling is ultimately the prerogative of the department chair. 700 level courses are on a regular rotation. ENG 700: Bibliography and Methods and ENG 791: College Teaching in Language and Literature are offered each Fall, ENG 703: Survey of Literary Theory and Criticism each Spring. To meet the needs of MFA and PhD with Creative Dissertation students, one graduate creative writing course is offered each year.

Our department also awards at least one Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award each year. The winner of this award is then nominated for the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, competing for the chance to be the COLA nominee for the

such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

Academic Success Center

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration, and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association

With a alumni base of 40,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities for the support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the student's responsibility to apply for graduation on time and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College Services Team and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to promote, support, and empower diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reports.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist in determining eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center provides programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

The Intersection is a center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their experiences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services.

they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room 111. The Commons is a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of student representatives from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct is a student-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the University to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct.

