Graduate Study in
ENGLISH
College of Arts & Sciences

USF
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

2015-2016
Graduate Studies in English

The **MA in English** (Literature or Rhetoric & Composition) develops literary, critical, and creative knowledge, preparing candidates for a variety of professional careers and/or further graduate study.

The **MFA in Creative Writing** is a terminal degree that qualifies graduates with sufficient publications to teach at the university level.

The **PhD in English** (Literature or Rhetoric & Composition) produces teacher-scholars who have a good general knowledge of critical theory, literature, and composition, as well as a specialized knowledge in their field of concentration.

Graduate Certificates

Graduate Certificates provide additional certified training after 15 hours of study. We offer certificates in Creative Writing, Comparative Literature, and Professional and Technical Communication.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall Admission**
- MFA Creative Writing: January 1
- MA Literature or MA Rhetoric & Composition: January 1
- PhD Literature or PhD Rhetoric & Composition: January 1

For more details and FAQs on any of the programs, visit [http://english.usf.edu/graduate/](http://english.usf.edu/graduate/).
Graduate Certificates

Graduate certificates provide additional credentials for the CV as well as broadening a student’s expertise and marketability. The English Department offers three graduate certificates:

- **Creative Writing**
- **Comparative Literary Studies**
- **Professional and Technical Communication**

All programs require 15 hours of courses, many of which may be satisfied by courses already counting toward a graduate degree.

**GC in Creative Writing**
**Coordinator: Prof. Rita Ciresi**
rciresi@usf.edu

The English department welcomes applications from post-BA students who wish to develop their skills as poets and writers of fiction and non-fiction but who may not wish to pursue a traditional graduate degree in English.

**GC in Comparative Literary Studies**
**Coordinator: Dr. Susan Mooney**
smooney@usf.edu

Students take five courses in two disciplines at the graduate level, usually English and another. The certificate culminates with an individualized course that allows students to engage in comparative research in two areas (by language, literature, discipline) and results in a research paper.

**GC in Professional and Technical Communication**
**Coordinator: Dr. Meredith Zoetewey Johnson**
meredithjohnson@usf.edu

This certificate, designed for students from all English Studies graduate programs, emphasizes workplace writing theory and practice. The English Department welcomes applications from graduate students who wish to develop expertise in the theory and teaching of professional and technical communication.

For more information and to apply, visit
http://english.usf.edu/graduate/cwcert/
http://english.usf.edu/graduate/clcert/
http://english.usf.edu/graduate/ptcert/
Applying to English Graduate Degree Programs

Apply online at usf.edu/admissions.

All supplementary application materials (statement, writing samples, and letters) may be uploaded to the Graduate Admissions online application, or they may be mailed directly to

Graduate Director
Department of English
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620-5550

The MA in English (Literature or Rhetoric and Composition)

Admission Requirements

1. Online Application to Graduate Admissions
2. GRE competitive Verbal score;
   Analytical/Writing score: target minimum 4.0;
   International applicants: minimum 600 TOEFL score
3. BA in English (or in a related field)
4. GPA minimum of 3.5 (in major) or 3.3 (overall for final two years)
5. Two- to three-page purpose statement
6. Three letters of recommendation
   A waiver form for the recommendations is downloadable from our website.
7. A writing sample of no more than ten pages that demonstrates academic or disciplinary writing.

Program Requirements

33 hours of coursework, culminating in Master’s portfolio or thesis. TAs must take Practice in Teaching Composition (3 hours).
MA in English, Literature Concentration

Required Courses
Intro to Graduate Studies
Criticism and Theory, I or II
1 Medieval or Renaissance
1 18th-century course
1 19th-century course
1 20th-century course
2 cultural/critical courses
2 elective courses
Portfolio and defense

MA in English, Rhetoric & Composition Concentration

Required Courses
Introduction to Graduate Studies
Studies in the History of Rhetoric
Studies in Rhetoric and Technology
Studies in Composition Theory
Studies in Composition Research
4-5 electives
Master’s thesis (6 hours)

Accelerated BA/MA in Literary Studies
Talented English majors at the University of South Florida can now earn their BA and MA in five years with our new combined program in Literary Studies.

Requirements
A minimum of 15 hours in the undergraduate program in Literary Studies with a 3.33 overall GPA and 3.5 GPA in the English major

Application
1. Faculty nomination or student self-nomination, via submission of the Accelerated Program Application Form
2. Letter of recommendation from a member of the Literary Studies faculty

Contact: Sarah Ayers, Undergraduate Advisor
sayers1@usf.edu
The MFA in Creative Writing

Admission Requirements
1. **Online Application**
2. **GRE Verbal** score: 73rd percentile or better; **Analytical/Writing** score: minimum 4.0; International applicants: min 600 TOEFL score
3. **BA**, preferably in English
4. **GPA** minimum of 3.2
5. **Two- to three-page purpose statement**
6. **Three letters of recommendation**
7. **Writing sample** in one genre only (12-20 pages of double-spaced fiction or creative nonfiction, or 10-15 pages of single-spaced poetry)

Program Requirements
45 hours of coursework with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in the required courses as well as a book-length manuscript in prose or poetry (48-64 pages of poems or at least 100 double-spaced pages of fiction or creative nonfiction) for thesis. With permission, students may also prepare a book-length graphic narrative for the thesis.

MFA in Creative Writing

**Required Courses:**
- Introduction to Graduate Studies
- 6 courses in writing workshops and seminars
- 5 courses in literature/pedagogy
- Master’s thesis: 9 hours (taken in final year)

Celebrating Writers

USF’s English Department brings notable writers to the area. Past guests include Jorie Graham, Li-Young Lee, Caryl Phillips, Dinty Moore, Michael Martone Robert Pinsky, E. L. Doctorow, Natasha Trethewey, Augusten Burroughs, Margaret Atwood, Louise Glück, Al Young, Bret Lott, Billy Collins, Salman Rushdie, Kim Addonizio, David Leavitt, Peter Meinke, and Connie May Fowler.

Our Creative Writing faculty and students sponsor formal readings by award-winning local writers on campus as well as less formally with MFA faculty and student readings at favorite local venues.
The PhD in English
(Literature or Rhetoric and Composition)

Admission Requirements

1. Online Application
2. GRE General Test: competitive Verbal score; target minimum Analytical/Writing score: 4.5
3. MA in English (or in related field)
4. GPA minimum of 3.7 (graduate work)
5. Two- to three-page purpose statement
6. A writing sample of no more than ten pages that demonstrates academic or disciplinary writing
7. Three letters of recommendation, at least two from faculty who have taught the applicant at the graduate level

Program Requirements

Hours
A minimum of 30 hours of coursework is required beyond the MA degree, exclusive of credits devoted to the foreign language requirement and the doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 90 hours beyond the BA degree is required.

Foreign Language
Before taking the PhD qualifying examination, students must fulfill the language requirement by demonstrating a reading knowledge of one foreign language.

PhD in English, Literature Concentration

Required Courses
Scholarly Research and Writing
Studies in Criticism and Theory, I or II
1 additional theory-rich course
Doctoral Seminar credit: 2 hours total (tied to other courses)
1 teaching practicum course
Elective courses: 16 hours
Doctoral dissertation: 10 hours minimum
Qualifying Exam
After completing 30 hours of coursework and the foreign language requirement, students take the PhD examination. Students may enroll in directed reading hours with exam committee members. The exam consists of three, three-hour written sections, the content of which depends on the student’s specialization.

PhD in English, Rhetoric and Composition Concentration

Required Courses
Scholarly Research and Writing
Studies in the History of Rhetoric
Studies in Rhetoric and Technology
Studies in Composition Theory
Studies in Composition Research
Elective courses: 13 hours
Doctoral Seminar credit: 2 hours total (tied to other courses)
Doctoral dissertation: 10 hours minimum

Qualifying Exam
After completing 30 hours of coursework, the language requirement, and all incomplete grades, a student may take the PhD examination. The standardized exam will be offered twice each academic year for all eligible students and consists of a 24-hour take-home exam divided into four written sections, and a manuscript suitable for publication in a specified scholarly journal.

Dissertation
The doctoral dissertation is a book-length work of original scholarship that makes a significant contribution to existing critical conversations. Students work with the graduate director to form their dissertation committees, which are composed of a director and three additional readers. Before the writing begins on the actual dissertation, each student submits a detailed prospectus, including a literature review, definition of purpose, and description of methodology, to
his or her committee. The completed dissertation (37,000 words or more in length) is formally presented at a public defense.

Special Program Opportunities

Graduate Internships
The Department of English offers an internship for graduate students. This credit-earning internship consists of supervised work-and-learning experience under the direction of a faculty member and an employee of a participating sponsor organization. The internship experience allows students to explore non-academic career options or interests as they develop broadly marketable professional skills and create professional networks. Local Tampa Bay businesses and organizations sponsoring students direct and counsel the intern in an on-the-job context for 10-12 hours each week for each 15-week semester. Sponsors are encouraged to treat the intern as a regular employee during the entire work-learning experience and to evaluate the intern at mid-semester and at the end of the term. A final professional portfolio is a significant part of this experience.

Graduate Student Publishing & Colloquia
English Department graduate students publish the creative writing journal, Saw Palm. This annual journal is a product of a graduate course in literary editing and can be accessed at www.sawpalm.org. The English Graduate Student Association also holds formal scholarly colloquia each semester.

Undergraduate-Graduate Mentorship Program
Sponsored by the EGSA, this program pairs undergraduate English majors with Graduate student mentors “who will provide support and guidance throughout the degree-seeking process.” The program includes full-group and small-group workshops, presentations and social events to address the benefits and challenges of being an English major.
Graduate Faculty

Rita Ciresi  Professor and Director of the MFA in Creative Writing. MFA, The Pennsylvania State University. Creative writing (fiction/nonfiction); Bring Back My Body to Me, 2012; Remind Me Again Why I Married You, Delacorte, 2003; Sometimes I Dream in Italian, Delacorte, 2001; Pink Slip, Delacorte, 1999; Blue Italian, Ecco, 1996; Mother Rocket, U of Georgia P, 1993. Fellowships from the state arts councils of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida; residencies at Ragdale Foundation, Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, Virginia Center for the Arts, Santa Fe Art Institute, American Academy in Rome, Hawthornden International Writers' Retreat, and Atlantic Center for the Arts.


Letters / The American Academy in Rome, 2010-11; Whiting Writers’ Award, 2009; Lannan Foundation Fellowship, 2009; Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award, 2007; Yale Series of Younger Poets Award, 2005.

Ylce Irizarry  

Debra Jacobs  

Meredith Zoetewey Johnson  


**Gary L. Lemons** Professor, PhD, New York University. African American and Modern American literature; black feminist and womanist theory and pedagogies, gender studies, and literary criticism; cultural studies; literature by women of color; Bible as literature; autobiography. “Revolutionary Ways of Seeing and Being: Teaching Radical Writings by Women of Color Feminists” and co-author of “Finding Our Voices, Connecting Across Time, Space, Age, Race, and Profession: Listen to Our Stories; We Have Something to Say,” *Claiming a Seat at the Table:*


**Susan Mooney** Associate Professor. PhD, University of Toronto. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Hispanic, British, French, Russian, and North American literatures; theory; sexuality; modernism; postmodernism; film. “Women’s Looking Relations after the Gaze: Maternal Ambivalence and Queerness in *Notes on a Scandal*,” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, forthcoming; “Empreintes paternelles sur la masculinité et la féminité chez Nina Bouraoui et Michel Houellebecq,” *Mythes et érotismes dans les littératures francophones de l’extrême contemporain*, Rodopi,


Jay Zysk  Assistant Professor. PhD, Brown University. Renaissance drama; medieval drama; trans-

Sources of Support

Graduate Teaching Assistantships
The Department of English annually awards graduate teaching assistantships, which include a tuition payment waiver (excluding fees) and an additional stipend based on the student’s academic level. Instructors usually teach between two and four sections of Composition I and II per year. Beginning graduate students are assigned faculty mentors to qualify for assistantships.

Presidential Doctoral Fellowships
USF offers a limited number of Presidential Doctoral Fellowships to outstanding doctoral students (in all disciplines at the university) who demonstrate potential for excellence in research and scholarly/creative activity. The fellowships include a $25,000/year stipend as well as full tuition, fees, and health insurance, and are renewable up to five years.

McKnight Doctoral Fellowships
For African American or Hispanic students pursuing a PhD, McKnight Doctoral Fellowships provide an annual stipend of $12,000 as well as a tuition waiver, and are renewable up to three years.

New and returning USF graduate students are also eligible for such awards as Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships, Grace Allen Scholarships, The Kreplick Fellowship, The Richardson Family Scholarships, The Ann Winch Fellowship, The Carolyn Cooley Fellowship, and The A. Harrison and Ruth Kosove Scholarship Program. Additional diversity scholarships are listed at www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/diversity/fellowships.asp.
Tampa hosts a rich mix of cultural opportunities, entertainment, and recreation, from the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the Tampa Museum of Art, and the Tampa Theatre, to the science museum MOSI and its dome IMAX; from historic Ybor City, Tampa’s Latin quarter and the heart of Tampa’s nightclubs, to the open-air blues of Skipper’s Smokehouse; from the white-sand Gulf beaches and the Greek fishing village Tarpon Springs in neighboring Pinellas County, kayaking along the Hillsborough River, biking and hiking trails that wind through the area, to Busch Gardens and Lowry Park Zoo.