

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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E N G L I S H
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The mission of the Master of Arts in English at Texas Southern University is to provide specialized instruction in literature, language, and research in order to prepare students for further graduate study, the teaching of English, and other professional endeavors. The program emphasizes literary studies. The degree plan requires students to successfully complete all the core courses and 21 semester hours of course work in (1) literary theory and criticism and (2) genre studies

The objectives of the program are as follows:

1. Provide an historical survey of literature, with a reading concentration on British, American, or African-American literary works;
- 2.

requirements.

4. Students must successfully complete 30 credit hours of course work and pass a comprehensive examination before undertaking the thesis.

Master of Arts in English Degree Plans

The English Department offers two options leading to the Master of Arts degree:

1. Track A – Masters of Arts degree (thesis option – 30 semester credit hours +6 research hours for thesis) – in literature study with an emphasis in American, African-American, or British literature.
2. Track B – Masters of Arts degree (non-thesis option - 36 semester credit hours for non-thesis) – with a generalist concentration in literary studies. With the approval of the Department Chair and the instructor, the student will devote three credits to a “Directed Reading and Research” course resulting in two or more longer papers.

Both the MA degree (thesis option) and the MA degree (non-thesis option) are designed to prepare students for entry to the professional world or further graduate study.

Master of Arts Degree, Track A (thesis option)

In order to earn a Master's degree in English under Track A, a candidate must complete the following departmental requirements:

1. Thirty hours of graduate work in English exclusive of English 837 (Thesis in Progress), with an emphasis in African American, American, or British literature)

Required Core Courses: English 502, 533, and 638

2. Evidence that the student either has passed at least twelve semester hours of a foreign language or has a reading knowledge of some foreign language (such competency to be certified, through examination, by the Department of Foreign Languages)
3. A written comprehensive examination
4. End of program assessment that includes a comprehensive test, portfolio, and research completion and evaluation
5. An acceptable thesis based on an investigation of a subject approved by the Department and the University Graduate School
6. An oral defense of the thesis before the committee of graduate faculty advisors
7. A completed thesis approved by the University Graduate School

Master of Arts Degree, Track B (non-thesis option)

In order to earn a Master's degree in English under Track B, a candidate must complete the following departmental requirements:

1. Thirty-six hours of graduate work in English for a general concentration in literature

Required Core Courses: English 502, 533, and 638

