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# English Department Graduate Handbook

## Graduate Program Overview

The Department of English at the University of Nevada, Reno offers both the MA and the PhD degrees.

MA areas of concentration include:

- Language
- Literature
- Rhetoric and Writing Studies
- Public Engagement [Public Engagement](#)

MFA areas of concentration include:

- Poetry
- Fiction
- [MFA General Information](#)

PhD areas of concentration include:

- Literature
- Rhetoric & Composition [Rhet & Comp](#)

Our programs of study all allow for and encourage study and training across the various fields in the department, resulting in a remarkably productive and exciting intellectual atmosphere.

With nearly 30 graduate faculty, our program has specialists in most areas of literary, rhetorical, composition, and linguistic study. UNR is a Research One university, and our faculty are active researchers doing cutting-edge work in a variety of fields. At the same time, our graduate program (70-80 students) is small enough that students enjoy a sense of community and benefit from close faculty mentoring. Faculty members take their roles as mentors very seriously, giving students the careful attention that helps them define and achieve their professional goals. Hence, our program has a low attrition rate and an exceptional placement rate for PhDs. MA alumni have entered successful careers in writing, publishing, community college teaching, business, and non-profits and have been accepted to PhD programs at other top-rated universities.

Graduate students may apply for teaching assistantships, which will allow them the opportunity to teach first-year composition and sophomore-level humanities courses. Our TA training program provides supportive mentorship and a research-based pedagogical foundation. Doctoral candidates may also have the opportunity to teach courses in their fields. Both masters and doctoral students are eligible for funding to support their professional presentations at academic conferences. Summer Research Assistantships provide an opportunity to work with faculty on their research projects.

To learn more about our graduate program, explore the links above. For an introduction to the University of Nevada and surrounding area, visit the [Discover Nevada](#) page.

The Director of Graduate Studies is available to advise applicants to our program. To schedule an appointment, contact the front office staff at 784-6689.

## **Graduate Emphasis: Literature**

The English Department offers a wide range of courses on English, American, and Anglophone literature. Our faculty members publish in leading journals and have authored recent books on topics ranging from Arthurian legend to postmodern American lyric. We have particular strengths in Renaissance, archival and media studies; twentieth-century American, British, and comparative literatures; and cultural studies and theory. Faculty members also teach in a variety of programs across campus, including the [Gender, Race, and Identity Program](#).

Our PhD graduates have been appointed to tenure-track positions at schools across the country and abroad. MA students have gone on to advanced graduate study in areas including English, law, education, and business, and to careers in politics, business, editing, and many other fields. Our students are active in the profession, from organizing panels at national conferences to serving as dramaturge at the Oregon Shakespeare festival. Graduate students may have opportunities for teaching a range of courses and for sponsored travel and research.

The English Department offers a wide range of courses on English, American, and Anglophone literature. Our faculty members publish frequently in leading journals and have authored recent books on topics ranging from Arthurian legend to postmodern American lyric. We have particular strengths in Renaissance and Victorian studies; twentieth-century American, British, and comparative literatures; and cultural studies and theory. Faculty members also teach in a variety of programs across campus, including the [Gender, Race, and Identity Program](#).

Our graduate program has an exceptional placement rate, and our PhD graduates have been appointed to tenure-track positions at schools across the country and abroad. MA students have gone on to advanced graduate study in areas including English, law, education, and business, and to careers in politics, business, editing, and many other fields. Our students are active in the profession, from organizing panels at national conferences to serving as dramaturge at the Oregon Shakespeare festival. Graduate students may have opportunities for teaching a range of courses and for sponsored travel and research.

For more information about English Department faculty, please see the [People in the Department of English](#) page.

## **Graduate Emphasis: Rhetoric and Composition**

Focusing on those interested in careers in academic research and teaching, program administration (first-year writing, writing across the curriculum, and writing center), as well as community and workplace literacy, the Rhetoric and Composition field of doctoral study is designed to balance theory/practice and teaching/scholarship. In addition to seminars in classical and modern rhetoric, feminist rhetoric, research methodologies, composition pedagogy, rhetorical studies of cultural practices, and various other topics, the curriculum offers internships that place students in community and school settings. We also strongly emphasize students' development as writers, with workshop courses offered in the craft of writing, advanced nonfiction, and creative nonfiction.

The Rhetoric and Composition faculty are committed to collaborative activity with students, engaging with them in local internship opportunities, conference presentations, scholarly research, program development and assessment, and writing projects. In addition, students receive active mentoring in teaching and administration, as well as opportunities to serve in leadership positions in the Core Writing Program and the University Writing Center. PhD students in Rhetoric and Composition also develop expertise in one cognate area, such as American literature, oral history, women's literature, critical theory, environmental literature, narrative theories, secondary school pedagogy, business/technical writing, or linguistics. Qualified PhD candidates have opportunities to teach intermediate and upper division courses in their areas of emphasis.

The PhD program of study in Rhetoric and Composition has had notable success placing its graduates in tenure track positions. Placements have occurred at a wide range of colleges and universities, including Washington State; University of Michigan, Flint; Texas Christian; Pittsburg State; Kansas; Eastern Michigan; Western Oregon; Viterbo, Minnesota; University of Philadelphia; University of California, Davis, to name only a few.

For more information about English Department faculty, please see the [People in the Department of English page](#).

## **Graduate Emphasis: MA in Public Engagement**

Our English department, located in a land-grant institution, has always had an outreach mission. That mission is especially crucial now as we seek to reinvigorate the humanities and serve the communities that nurture the university. We are the department with particular knowledge in reading, writing, and language study—the skills most crucial to the current technological age. The Public Engagement emphasis brings these talents to bear on issues of public concern. The emphasis prepares students with a required seminar in public intellectualism and emphasizes experiential learning and the development of interdisciplinary literacy. It includes core coursework in rhetoric and in literature. But it also incorporates any course in the English department that may serve a public engagement student's particular commitments. For instance, a course in postmodern poetics might be useful to a student committed to creating a space for local spoken word; a

course in rhetoric and Marxism might be useful to a student who does labor advocacy work; a course in environmental literature might be useful to a student active in local sustainability movements; and a course in literature and film might be useful to a student who wants to facilitate community reading groups. Like a magnet, the Public Engagement emphasis draws expertise from across the English faculty to help students tailor their MA to their interests in public engagement.

The Public Engagement MA emphasis is designed to serve students whose career goals may include teaching, working for non-profits, and/or going on for a PhD in literature or rhetoric programs that emphasize community activism.

### **Graduate Emphasis: MA in Rhetoric & Writing Studies**

The MA emphasis in Rhetoric & Writing Studies is designed for students who wish to strengthen their skills as writers while deepening their understanding of theories of writing from the fields of rhetoric, composition, and writing studies. Cognate work in linguistics, literature, or literacy studies further enriches the study of writing. Students may choose either a non-thesis or thesis program of study.

This emphasis supports a range of professional pursuits, including technical and professional writing, literacy studies, the teaching of composition, and rhetorical studies. Students in the program are active in publishing, participating in conferences, and serving as writing interns in businesses, community agencies, or educational institutions. The MA Rhetoric & Writing Studies program has placed graduates in community colleges, positions in the public and private sectors, and PhD programs throughout the US.

For more information about English Department faculty, please see the [bibliography pages](#).

### **Graduate Emphasis: Language, Linguistics**

The MA program of study in Language and Linguistics is designed primarily for students who have some background in linguistics but did not major in the field as undergraduates. The program is an excellent complement to BA or advanced degrees in Anthropology, Composition and Rhetoric, English Literature, Foreign Languages, Philosophy, Psychology, or Speech Pathology. The MA can serve as a terminal degree, or as preparation for further study in a Linguistics PhD program.

The program provides students the opportunity to study the English language and to master the analytical tools of linguistics, which can be applied to the study of any language. In addition to a firm grounding in the basic concepts of linguistics, students receive training in phonology, morphology, syntax, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, the history of the English language, and Old English.

For more information about English Department faculty, please see the [People in the Department of English page](#).

## MFA Degree

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in creative writing is designed for students who wish to pursue a professional degree with emphases on both students' writing and graduate-level scholarship in English. The degree involves a three-year course of study, requiring a series of rigorous workshops centered on the development of students' creative work, in addition to coursework in literary history, critical theory, and literary craft. Students will have the opportunity to develop a significant body of publishable creative work with an understanding of and the ability to describe the work's historical/ literary context.

As the terminal degree in the field of creative writing, the MFA degree prepares graduates to teach at the collegiate level, as well as for employment in the fields of publishing, literary agenting, and editing. The degree also guides writers toward publishing in nationally prominent presses, journals, and magazines.

The MFA program offers specializations in fiction and poetry, and welcomes writers who aspire to high levels of literary quality, including fiction writers working within traditional genres (i.e., young adult, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, horror, etc.).

For more information about English Department faculty, please see the [People in the Department of English page](#).

## MA General Information and Requirements

The Department of English offers four areas of emphasis within its MA program: [Language](#), [Literature](#), [Writing](#), and [Public Engagement](#). These emphases serve a variety of students with a wide range of professional goals and ambitions.

Applicants to the MA program must have an undergraduate major or minor in English or its equivalent from an accredited college or university, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Potential applicants who do not meet these minimum requirements should talk with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine which undergraduate English courses to take should they wish to prepare for graduate studies in English.

The following general requirements apply in all emphases within the MA program, except where clearly stated in the specific descriptions for each emphasis.

**1. Time Limit.** All requirements must be satisfied during the six calendar years immediately preceding the granting of the degree.

**2. Graduate Committee.** As soon as is practical and in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, a student should choose an advisory committee and complete a Program of Study. The graduate program in English emphasizes a close working relationship between the student and his or her advisory committee. Advisory committees for master's students consist of a chair and a second member from the graduate faculty in the Department of English and one member of the graduate faculty from another university department.

**3. Choice of Thesis or Non-Thesis Plan.** Most of our MA emphases allow students the option of writing a thesis or of substituting course work for the thesis. We encourage students to follow the non-thesis plan unless there is a compelling reason to select the thesis plan.

**4. Total Credits.** The non-thesis plan requires 33 credits of graduate work; the thesis plan requires 31 total credits, 6 of which will be thesis credits. No more than 4 credits of Internship and 3 credits of English 790 Special Topics (Independent Study) may be counted toward the degree. Except in the case of required internships, independent study and internships credits may not be used to fulfill course requirements but may be counted for total number of credits required for degrees.

**5. Transfer Credits.** No more than nine total credits applicable to the approved program of study may be accepted from graduate courses taken at another institution and/or taken at the University of Nevada, Reno on graduate special status. These courses must have been completed within the six-year time limit for the MA degree and must be approved to count toward the degree by the student's committee chair, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate School.

**6. Residence.** In the non-thesis plan, a minimum of 23 credits must be earned in residence; in the thesis plan, the minimum is 21 credits.

**7. Continuous Registration.** Graduate School regulations require graduate students to maintain continuous registration of at least three credit hours per semester to remain active in the pursuit of a degree. This means that students studying for comprehensive exams or writing theses must (even if they are not in residence) register for at least three credit hours each semester (summers excluded) until they graduate.

**8. Seminar Requirement.** All MA students are required to take a substantial portion of their course work at the 700 level. In the Literature and the Rhetoric and Composition emphases (thesis and non-thesis plans), at least 23 credits must be completed in courses numbered 700 or above. In the Writing emphasis and in the Language emphasis, 19 credits must be numbered 700 or above in the thesis plan, or 16 credits in the non-thesis plan.

**9. Foreign Language Requirement.** Competence in one foreign language is required. French, German, Spanish, Italian, Latin, or Greek are recommended, but other languages may be approved by the student's advisory committee. The student is strongly advised to complete the work necessary to meet this requirement before becoming a graduate student, or as soon as possible after beginning graduate study. The requirement may be met either by course work or by examination. Course work: competence is demonstrated by the student completing fourth-semester college-level course work in the language with a grade of C or better in the final term of the course, or by the student completing the second semester of a sophomore reading course with a grade of B or better. Examination: the student must pass a proficiency exam given by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Nevada, Reno.

**10. Comprehensive Examination.**

In order to register for 795 (comprehensive exam), a student must have met these requirements:

- (1) Filed a completed Program of Study with the Graduate School;
- (2) Completed all but the last semester of course work toward the degree for the MA;
- (3) Met the foreign language requirement for the student's degree and area of emphasis;
- (4) Met with the student's committee chair to work out plans for completing the written and oral portions of the exams;
- (5) Returned the "Approval to Register for Comprehensive Exams" form, completed, to the English department office prior to the end of registration.

The MA program requires a comprehensive exam as a part of the degree requirements. In general, the exam includes three parts: a) a professional paper; b) a written examination over a set reading list; c) an oral exam of about an hour and a half, covering the professional paper or portfolio and the written exam. Examinations for each program emphasis are detailed below. A student must have completed the professional paper or portfolio and have passed the written exam prior to taking the oral exam. Failed written or oral exams can be retaken only once. Students must register for English 795, Comprehensive Exam, 1 credit, the semester they will be completing their exams.

**11. Thesis (thesis plan only).** Students choosing a thesis plan will first prepare a thesis prospectus, in consultation with the chair of the advisory committee, for the committee's approval. The finished thesis, after meeting the approval of the advisory committee, is defended in the final oral examination, which also covers the written exam. In the Writing program, the final oral defense is separate from the discussion of the portfolio and written exam. While the thesis is in progress, the candidate should register for the six required hours of thesis credit (English 797), including one hour to be taken during the writing of the prospectus. Documentation and bibliography should follow the current *MLA Style Manual*. Precise guidelines for thesis format and submission are available at the Graduate School. Students doing research involving human subjects *must* check with the Office of



Human Subjects Research in Ross Hall regarding necessary protocols and review procedures.

**12. Graduation.** To graduate in any given semester, the student must file an Application for Graduation by the date specified for that semester in the university catalog and meet that semester's deadlines for submission of the Notice of Completion and (if on the thesis plan) the final copy of the thesis to the Graduate School. Students should be aware that graduation application dates at the University of Nevada, Reno are unusually early: *the deadline is generally eight weeks prior to graduation.*

**13. Paperwork.** The student is responsible for knowing the degree requirements and for submitting all Graduate School forms on time. Early in their graduate careers, students should become familiar with the most important of these forms: the Program of Study, the Notice of Completion, and the Application for Graduation. Most Graduate School forms are available on the web at [www.unr.edu/grad/forms](http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms). The Application for Graduation is available on the Graduate School's website: <http://www.unr.edu/grad/graduation>.

## MA Literature Emphasis

### Specific Requirements

The MA Literature emphasis is designed for students interested in developing their knowledge of American, British, and global literatures in English; it focuses on the ability to think and write critically about literary texts. The Literature emphasis requires students to take a variety of courses dealing with different literary genres and periods, yet also allows them to concentrate their studies in the areas they find to be of greatest interest. This emphasis is primarily, but not exclusively, intended for people who are preparing for PhD programs or professions in which they will teach literature, conduct literary research, or write professionally.

**1. General Requirements.** See the section on [MA General Information and Requirements](#)

### 2. Course Requirements.

**a) Research Methods.** English 711, Introduction to Graduate Study, is required and must be taken at the first opportunity. It is customarily offered each fall semester.

**b) Distribution Requirements.** The student must take at least one course in nine of the following ten fields: Poetry, Fiction, Drama, Linguistics, Nonfiction/Intellectual Prose, Rhetoric, Literary Criticism, American Literature, British Literature before 1800, and British Literature after 1800. Five of the distribution requirements may be met by courses taken at the advanced undergraduate level (the equivalent of our

department's 400-level courses) in which the student earned a B or above. The Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the faculty, determines which distribution requirement(s) specific courses may meet.

**3) Literature Topic or Field.** The student must take at least two courses in a particular field of interest, determined in consultation with his or her MA committee chair. Fields or topics might, for instance, include the Renaissance, African American literature, or the American novel.

**3. Professional Paper.** In consultation with his or her MA committee chair, each student will complete a professional paper. No credit toward Course Requirements (see above) will be granted for work on the professional paper or portfolio.

The professional paper is a substantial literary-critical essay. The student selects one seminar paper written in the MA program and revises it, working with their chair and with the professor in whose course it was originally written, who must be a member of the student's committee. When revised, this paper will be presented to the committee as an example of the student's ability to perform research and write a convincing, reasoned argument on a topic related to literature. The paper should be approximately twenty pages long and should be of professional, publishable quality.

**4. Comprehensive Examination (written).** In consultation with the MA committee chair, each student will put together a reading list based on his or her particular topic or field of concentration. The list should consist of 10 to 15 items, at least eight of which should be book-length. The written portion of the comprehensive exam will be designed to demonstrate the student's mastery of the materials on this reading list. The student completes a one-day exam on the reading list. The exam questions will be set by the members of the student's MA committee, who will then evaluate the written exam.

**5. Thesis (Thesis Plan only).** The first step is to present a prospectus, written in consultation with the student's committee chair, to the student's advisory committee. This prospectus should constitute a sound plan for writing the thesis and may include a bibliography and a tentative table of contents. The prospectus is normally approved before the student completes the written exam. He or she then writes the thesis, working closely with committee members. The student must register for 6 credits of English 797, Thesis.

**6. Comprehensive Examination (oral) and Thesis Defense.** The oral exam lasts about an hour and a half and is administered by the student's MA committee. In the non-thesis plan, the student takes the oral exam after completing the professional paper or portfolio and the written exam; the oral will include questions on each of these works. In the thesis plan, the student takes the final oral exam after the completed thesis has been approved by his or her committee. In addition to those works covered in the exam for the non-thesis plan, the oral for students who choose the thesis plan also includes a defense of the thesis. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the oral exam with his or her committee. The

student must register for English 795, Comprehensive Examination, one credit, the semester he or she will be completing the oral exam.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the MA English, Literature emphasis.

## **MA Public Engagement Emphasis**

### **Specific Requirements**

The Public Engagement MA emphasis is designed to serve students whose career goals may include teaching, working for non-profits, and/or going on for a PhD in literature or rhetoric programs that emphasize community activism. The objectives of this emphasis are as follows:

- To provide a sound foundation in the rhetoric, literature, and theory of public engagement;
- To provide a rigorous critical framework for understanding and evaluating public engagement efforts;
- To produce citizen-scholars who can work both in academia and in the community;
- To familiarize students with the genres, forums, contexts, relationships, and techniques best suited to public engagement;
- To serve as a resource for tackling and articulating larger cultural issues for both the university and the larger community.

Accordingly, students who achieve an MA in English in the Public Engagement emphasis will be able to do the following:

- Articulate the theoretical and/or ideological commitments of particular public engagement efforts;
- Articulate their own theoretical and/or ideological commitments as they pursue public engagement efforts;
- Understand and apply critically the literature relevant to public engagement;
- Clearly articulate a problem in public engagement and select suitable theoretical and practical approaches to it;
- Select and deploy the genres, forums, and techniques best suited to a particular public engagement effort;
- Work productively with both academic and community partners on a public engagement effort;
- Produce professional documents and creative texts appropriate to a particular audience, purpose, and rhetorical situation.

### **1. General Requirements**

See the section on [MA General Information and Requirements](#).

### **Course Requirements**

#### **a) 740: English Studies and Public Intellectualism**

**b) Either English 711—Introduction to Graduate Study or English 730—Introduction to Graduate Study in Rhetoric and Composition**

**c) ENG 736, an internship, or another course (either taught or taken)** that has a significant experiential learning component. An Experiential Learning Application (available on Nevada Box) must be completed and approved for experiential learning courses other than ENG 736.

**d) Two Power, Place, and Publics courses:** A PPP Application (available on Nevada Box) must be completed by student and instructor for each course and approved by the MAPE committee.

**e) In addition to the above, one Rhetoric course and one Literature course.**

**f) Interdisciplinary literacy requirement.** Competence in a foreign language, two 600- or 700-level courses in a cognate discipline, or three advanced courses in linguistics; plan must be approved by committee chair. NB: Interdisciplinary literacy courses that are not ENG courses (or cross-listed as such) count neither toward the 23 700-level credits nor the 33 graduate credits required for the MA degree.

### 3. Professional Portfolio

The professional portfolio requires the student to develop critical and professional materials specific to an issue of civic engagement. The materials should include a historical and critical framework for understanding the issue as well as professional materials that display application of that framework. Ideally, these materials should develop the writing done in courses as well as community engagement work. The portfolio will be developed in consultation with the student's committee and will be discussed during the oral exam. *NB: There is no thesis option for the Public Engagement emphasis.*

### 5. Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive exam will consist of a written exam and an oral examination. Working with his or her advisor, the student develops a bibliography of approximately 15 texts relevant to the student's interests. These texts will vary in length and form according to the student's topic of choice and professional goals. The student completes a one-day written exam, designed to demonstrate his or her mastery of the materials on the reading list. The exam questions will be set by the members of the student's MA committee, who will then evaluate the written exam. Once the exam has passed, the student will proceed to the oral examination. Lasting one and a half hours, the examination will cover materials from both the portfolio and the written exam.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the MA English Public Engagement emphasis.

## MA Rhetoric & Writing Studies Emphasis

### Specific Requirements

The MA emphasis in Rhetoric & Writing Studies is designed for students who wish to strengthen their skills as writers while deepening their understanding of theories of

writing from the fields of rhetoric, composition, and writing studies. Cognate work in linguistics, literature, or literacy studies further enriches the study of writing. Students may choose either a non-thesis or thesis program of study.

**1. General Requirements.** See the section on [general master's degree requirements](#). In the Writing emphasis only, 19 credits must be taken at the 700 level in the Thesis Plan, or 16 credits in the Non-Thesis Plan.

## **2. Course Requirements.**

**a) Required Course.** English 730, Introduction to Graduate Study in Rhetoric and Composition, is required and should be taken at the earliest opportunity. It is customarily offered each fall semester.

**b) Electives.** At least 2 courses for the Thesis Plan, or 3 courses for the Non-Thesis Plan, must be chosen from 600- and 700-level writing courses in English.

**c) Other Electives.** In consultation with the advisory committee, the student will choose at least 2 courses (Thesis Plan) or 3 courses in (Non-Thesis Plan), to complement his or her interests. No more than three courses may be taken outside the Department of English.

**d) Language Studies.** The student's undergraduate or graduate course work must include an advanced course in English language studies, such as English 411B/611B, 412A/612A, or 414A/614A, as approved by the advisory committee.

**3. Portfolio.** Each student will assemble a portfolio of ancillary work in the field of rhetoric & writing studies. The portfolio should demonstrate the student's professional involvement beyond course work and may include published writing or writing submitted for publication, syllabi of writing courses developed or taught by the student, membership and participation in professional organizations, service on school or college curriculum or writing committees, or presentation of papers at workshops and conferences. The student will discuss the completed portfolio with his or her advisory committee at the final oral examination.

**4. Comprehensive Examination (written and oral).** Working closely with the advisory committee, the student will prepare a bibliography of approximately 15 important works in the field of writing. This bibliography may be prepared throughout the student's time in the program; the works to be included must be approved in advance by the advisory committee. For the comprehensive examination, the student writes a synthesizing paper on a topic approved by the committee. Alternatively, the student may elect to take a one-day written examination, prepared by the committee, over ideas and concepts represented by the student's selected reading list. After the student has passed the paper or written exam, the advisory committee will conduct an oral exam, not to last more than an hour and a half.

The student must register for English 795, Comprehensive Examination, one credit, the semester he or she will be completing the oral exam.

**5. Thesis (Thesis Plan only).** The thesis may be a piece of empirical research, a library research project, a critical/rhetorical paper, or work in imaginative writing. After approval of a prospectus by the advisory committee, the student completes the thesis, registering for 6 credits of English 797.

**6. Thesis Defense (Thesis Plan only).** The final oral exam, given by the candidate's advisory committee, will last about an hour and a half and will be a defense of the thesis. Candidates who prepare writings as a thesis project may instead present their thesis as a public reading and discussion of that work.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the MA English, Writing emphasis.

## MA Language Emphasis

### Specific Requirements

The MA Language emphasis offers a concentration in the study of the English language, with courses in linguistics, the structure and history of the English language, and literature. The range of available courses is designed to give students the latitude to design programs of study suited to their individual professional interests in the field of English language and linguistics. The student who selects the Language emphasis must work closely with his or her advisor and committee in planning this program of study.

**1. General Requirements.** See the section on [general master's degree requirements](#).

**2. Course Requirements.** *(Note that English 281 or equivalent course is a prerequisite for all linguistics courses.)*

**a) Research Methods.** English 711 is required and should be taken at the earliest opportunity. It is customarily offered each fall semester

**b) Language Courses.** . Language Courses. English 611B, 612A, 612D, and 717 are required. These course requirements may be met by such courses previously taken at the 400 (or equivalent) level (if student earned a B or above). In such a case, the student will take an equivalent number of credits of other language electives, chosen in consultation with student's committee or with approval of linguistics faculty.

**c) Language Electives.** For the non--thesis option, these should include nine additional credits of courses drawing from language or linguistics based offerings (can be taken outside the department), selected in consultation with student's committee or with approval of linguistics faculty. For the thesis option, this should include six additional credits.

**d) Other Electives.** Other courses should be selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee to complement the student's interest in language. Courses may include graduate courses in English, including additional courses among those listed under b) and c) above.

If approved by the student's advisory committee, a limit of two language-related courses may also be taken in Anthropology, Psychology, Computer Science, World Languages, Basque Studies, Speech Pathology, Philosophy or in the College of Education.

**3. Comprehensive Examination (written).** At the completion of course work, the student must pass written examinations administered by his or her advisory committee. In the Thesis Plan, the written examination will last four hours. Two hours of the exam will be based on the student's course work, and two hours will be based on basic linguistic principles, history and structure of the English language, and English dialects. In the Non-Thesis Plan, the exam will last six hours, with three hours based on course work and three hours on the basic materials specified above. The questions will ask that the student demonstrate both specific information and a broader understanding of concepts important to the study of language.

**4. Thesis (Thesis Plan).** The student writing a thesis should submit a prospectus to his or her advisory committee before beginning to write the thesis. The thesis will be written with the guidance of the chair and committee. The student must register for 6 credits of English 797, Thesis.

**5. Comprehensive Examination (oral) and Thesis Defense.** Approximately three weeks after passing the written examination, the Non-Thesis Plan candidate will take an oral examination lasting no longer than one and a half hours, administered by the student's advisory committee. Like the written examination, the oral exam will be based on the student's knowledge of the structure and history of the language and on the student's course work, although its range may be broader. For a student studying under the Thesis Plan, the oral exam will be given when the thesis is completed and approved by the advisory committee. While the exam will focus on the student's own research, it may also explore areas in which the student has had course work. The student must register for English 795, Comprehensive Examination, one credit, the semester he or she will be completing the oral exam.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the MA English, Language...

## **MFA Requirements**

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in creative writing is designed for students who wish to pursue a professional degree with emphases on both students' writing and graduate-level scholarship in English. The degree involves a three-year course of study, requiring a series of rigorous workshops centered on the development of students' creative work, in addition to coursework in literary history, critical theory, and literary craft. Students will

have the opportunity to develop a significant body of publishable creative work with an understanding of and the ability to describe the work's historical/ literary context.

As the terminal degree in the field of creative writing, the MFA degree prepares graduates to teach at the collegiate level, as well as for employment in the fields of publishing, literary agenting, and editing. The degree also guides writers toward publishing in nationally prominent presses, journals, and magazines.

The MFA program offers specializations in fiction and poetry, and welcomes writers who aspire to high levels of literary quality, including fiction writers working within traditional genres (i.e., young adult, science fiction, fantasy, mystery, horror, etc.).

Applicants to the MFA program in creative writing must have a Bachelor's degree or Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from an accredited university, school, or college, and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Applicants need not have received their previous degree in English, but all applicants must demonstrate readiness to engage in graduate-level scholarship in English.

By the end of their degree program, MFA candidates should be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of manipulation of elements of craft/technique within their chosen area of emphasis. (In fiction, this is defined as: form (the novel, novella, and short story); generic tropes; narrative structure; point of view; tone; and voice. In poetry this is defined as: traditional forms; line/enjambment; imagery and metaphor; meter; rhyme and free verse);
- Demonstrate an understanding of the contemporary publishing landscape for fiction and/or poetry, for book-length works as well as for individual stories/poems;
- Demonstrate the ability to curate/edit the creative work of others for publication;
- Create a book-length of work of publishable creative writing, as well as identify its audience/market;
- Analyze and describe their creative work within the context of historical trends/ movements and genres in literature;
- Compile a professional portfolio demonstrating an understanding of future career options and approaches to same.

## SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### a. Creative Writing Curriculum

ENG 707: Craft and Forms of Creative Writing (4 credit hours)



ENG 708: Topics and Problems in Creative Writing (4 credit hours)

Students must take 4 credit hours in ONE of the above courses, as well as the following:

ENG 710: Literary Editing and Publishing (4 credit hours)

ENG 705/709: Graduate Workshop in Fiction / Poetry (20 hours)  
(Students must take 5 workshops: 4 in their stated specialization, and 1 outside of it.)

b. ENG 711: Introduction to Graduate Study

c. 15 credit hours Electives, 12 of which must be taken within the Department of English at the 700-level. These classes will normally be literature courses; in consultation with their advisors, students will be encouraged to plan elective courses around faculty offerings and topics that best reflect their individual interests and the ongoing aesthetic concerns of their creative work. 3 credits must be taken outside the Department of English, and must be taken at the 600 or 700 level.

d. ENG 797: Thesis Study (13 credit hours, see below) Students must sign up for a minimum of 13 hours of thesis study. These hours may be split across multiple semesters (including summer). Thesis study is overseen by the chair of the student's advisory committee.

e. ENG 795: Comprehensive Exam (1 credit hour, see below)

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Time Limit

All requirements must be satisfied during the six calendar years immediately preceding the granting of the degree.

### 2. Advisory Committee

During the second year of study, and in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, MFA candidates must choose one Department of English creative writing faculty member to serve as MFA committee chair and advisor; two additional department faculty (one from creative writing, and one outside the student's declared course of study) to serve as committee members; and a fourth committee member from outside the Department of English, chosen in consultation with the committee chair.

### 3. Residence

It is assumed that students in their sixth semester will be completing their thesis projects (see below), and will likely be registered only for thesis credits.

#### 4. Continuous Registration

Graduate School regulations require graduate students to maintain continuous registration of at least three credit hours per semester (summers excluded) to remain active in the pursuit of a degree.

#### 5. Total Credits

The MFA requires 60 credits, all of which must be taken at the graduate level.

#### 6. Transfer Credits

Students will only be allowed to transfer credits from previous graduate courses in exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Department of English MFA Committee and Director of Graduate Studies. In most circumstances, no more than three graduate classes applicable to the approved program of study may be accepted from graduate courses taken at another institution and/or the University of Nevada, Reno. These courses must have been completed within the six-year time limit for the MFA degree and must be approved to count toward the degree by the MFA Committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate School. No previous writing workshops will count for transfer credit.

#### 7. Seminar Requirement

MFA students are required to take all courses at the 700 level, with the exception of electives taken outside of the Department of English, which may be at the 600-level. The student may in unusual circumstances take a 600-level class in English, but only in consultation with his or her committee chair and the Director of Graduate Studies.

#### 8. Comprehensive Examination (Written)

In order to register for 795 (the comprehensive exam), a student must have met the following requirements:

- (1) Filed a completed Program of Study with the Graduate School;
- (2) Completed five semesters of study toward the degree;
- (3) Met with the student's committee chair to work out plans for completing the written and oral portions of the exams;
- (4) Returned the "Approval to Register for Comprehensive Exams" form, completed, to the English department office prior to the end of registration.

Working closely with his or her advisory committee, at the beginning of his or her second year of study, the student will prepare a reading list of 30 works. As soon as is feasible, the student will turn in an annotated bibliography of this reading list to his or her committee. Prior to the end of his or her third year of study, the student will take a one-day written examination, prepared by the committee, focusing on ideas and concepts represented by the student's reading list and annotations. After the student has passed the written exam, the advisory committee will conduct an oral exam, not to last more than an hour and a half. The student's advisory

committee is responsible for the evaluation of the exam. Graduate School regulations stipulate that if more than one negative vote is cast, the examination is failed. If this happens, the student may be allowed to repeat specific areas of the exam, or the entire exam. However, no part may be retaken more than once, and three months must elapse between attempts.

## 9. Thesis

A book-length work of fiction or poetry of publishable quality, written and revised over the course of the student's studies and under the thesis committee's supervision. Prior to the end of the third year of study (by which time the student shall have registered for/completed 13 credits of thesis study) students will present a polished draft of the thesis to their committee for review, then (shortly after completing the Comprehensive Examination) defend the completed thesis before the full committee. The committee will then vote according to Department of English bylaws whether to confer the MFA degree.

## 10. Graduation

To graduate in any given semester, the student must file an Application for Graduation by the dates specified for that semester in the university catalog and meet that semester's deadlines for submission of the Notice of Completion and (if on the thesis plan) the final copy of the thesis to the Graduate School. Students should be aware that graduation application dates at the University of Nevada, Reno are unusually early: the deadline is generally eight weeks prior to graduation. MFA candidates may be hooded during graduation, but must meet all Notice of Completion deadlines listed PhD candidates in order to do so.

## 11. Paperwork

The student is responsible for knowing the degree requirements and for submitting all Graduate School forms on time. Early in their graduate careers, students should become familiar with the most important of these forms: the Program of Study, the Notice of Completion, and the Application for Graduation. Most Graduate School forms are available on the web at [www.unr.edu/grad/forms](http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms). The Application for Graduation is available on the Graduate School's website: <http://www.unr.edu/grad/graduation>.

Click here for a checklist of degree requirements for the MFA in Creative Writing.

## **PhD Program**

### **General Information and Requirements**

The Department of English offers two areas of emphasis within its PhD program: [Literature](#) and [Rhetoric & Composition](#). Students in each emphasis design their specific programs of

study following departmental guidelines and in consultation with their advisory committees. Specializations are available in a variety of fields within each emphasis.

Applicants to the PhD program must have an MA in English or its equivalent from an accredited college or university, an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0, and a cumulative graduate GPA of at least 3.5. Potential applicants without an MA in English should talk with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether their graduate work in a related field is comparable to that expected.

Detailed information on applying to the PhD program is found here: [How to Apply for Admission](#).

*PhD admissions are entirely separate from MA admissions; completion of the MA program at the University of Nevada, Reno does not ensure admission to the PhD program.*

The following general requirements apply in all emphases within the PhD program, except where clearly stated in the specific descriptions that follow.

- 1. Time Limit.** All requirements must be satisfied during the eight calendar years immediately preceding the granting of the degree.
- 2. Advisory Committee.** As soon as practical and in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, a student should choose an advisory committee and complete a Program of Study. The graduate program in English emphasizes a close working relationship between the student and his or her advisory committee. Advisory committees for doctoral students consist of a chair and two other members from the graduate faculty of the Department of English and two members from the graduate faculty in other departments.
- 3. Residence.** A PhD degree requires a minimum of six semesters of full-time work beyond the baccalaureate degree, of which at least two successive semesters (excluding summer sessions) must be spent in full-time residence at the University of Nevada, Reno. (Full-time residence requires a minimum of nine credits per semester. Teaching assistants taking at least six credits per semester are also considered to be in full-time residence.)
- 4. Continuous Registration.** Graduate School regulations require graduate students to maintain continuous registration of at least three credit hours per semester to remain active in the pursuit of a degree. This means that students studying for comprehensive exams or writing dissertations must, even if they are not in residence, register for at least three credit hours (usually English 799) each semester (summers excluded) until they graduate.
- 5. Total Credits.** Candidates for the PhD degree must complete a minimum of 73 graduate credits, including at least 49 credits in course work and 24 dissertation credits beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students are required to take at least eight courses in residence, for a minimum of 24 credits. No more than 4 credits of English 736 Internship and 3 credits of English 791 Special Topics (Independent Study) may be counted toward the degree. Except

in the case of required internships, independent study and internships credits may not be used to fulfill course requirements but may be counted for total number of credits for degrees.

**6. Transfer Credits.** A maximum of 24 credits in graduate courses with grades of B or higher may be transferred from another university and applied toward requirements for the PhD. Students with a master's degree in English from another university can thus transfer as 24 credits, at most. Transfer credit requests must be approved by the student's committee chair, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate School. Whether courses taken elsewhere may substitute for specific course requirements at Nevada will be determined by the Director of Graduate Studies and/or the student's advisory committee.

**7. Seminar Requirement.** Exclusive of dissertation credits, a total of 31 credits, at least 19 of which are beyond the master's degree, is required in courses numbered 700 or above.

**8. Foreign Language Requirement.** Students may meet the foreign language requirement in one of two ways: 1) competence in one foreign language; or 2) course work in linguistics and the nature of language. The choice of languages or linguistics course work is left to the student in consultation with his or her advisory committee; preference should go to those languages that would prove most useful to the student over a lifetime of reading and research. Competence in a language is defined as completion of the equivalent of four semesters of college level work in the language with a grade of C or better in the final semester, or as completion of the second semester of a sophomore reading course with a grade of B or better. The requirement is considered satisfied when a college transcript shows such a grade in the appropriate final course (whether the earlier courses are shown or not), or when the student has passed at the appropriate level a test administered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. As an alternative to the foreign language, the student's advisory committee may allow her or him to substitute a three-semester sequence of specified graduate courses in linguistics, language, and language-related topics from other disciplines, such as psychology or anthropology.

**9. Comprehensive Examination (written)** In order to register for 795 (comprehensive exam), a student must have met the following requirements:

- (1) Filed a completed Program of Study with the Graduate School;
- (2) Completed all course work toward the degree for the PhD;
- (3) Met the foreign language requirement for the student's degree and area of emphasis;
- (4) Met with the student's committee chair to work out plans for completing the written and oral portions of the exams;
- (5) Returned the "Approval to Register for Comprehensive Exams" form, completed, to the English department office prior to the end of registration.

After completing course work and the foreign language requirement, the PhD student must pass a comprehensive examination, consisting of a written test and an oral review. The options for PhD exams in each program emphasis are detailed on the "Specific Requirements" pages. The student's advisory committee is responsible for the evaluation of the exam. Graduate School regulations stipulate that if more than one negative vote is cast,

the examination is failed. If this happens, the student may be allowed to repeat specific areas of the exam, or the entire exam. However, no part may be retaken more than once, and three months must elapse between attempts.

**10. Comprehensive Examination (oral).** After passing the written exam, the student must also pass an oral examination, administered by his or her advisory committee and lasting approximately two hours. The oral exam will review the written exam and--in the rhetoric and composition emphases--the student's writing portfolio (described in the "Specific Requirements" pages). As with the written examination, a failed oral exam may be retaken only once. Students who have completed all course work, finished the foreign language requirement, and passed both the comprehensive written and oral exams are formally admitted to PhD candidacy. The student must register for English 795, Comprehensive Examination, and one credit in the semester he or she will be completing the oral exam.

**11. Dissertation.** Candidates for the PhD degree must present a dissertation that makes a significant scholarly or critical contribution to knowledge. A dissertation prospectus must be submitted to and approved by the candidate's advisory committee before work begins on the dissertation. Typically this prospectus will include a bibliography and an extensive description of contents. Since the dissertation requires close and constant supervision by the chair of the advisory committee, the candidate should develop the dissertation in residence. When considerable progress has already been made, the candidate may be permitted to complete the dissertation elsewhere, under such arrangements as his or her advisory committee may specify and the Graduate Dean approve. In the process of working on the dissertation, each candidate must register for at least twenty-four credits of dissertation under English 799.

Documentation and bibliography should follow the current *MLA Style Manual*. The Graduate School has formatting requirements and submission guidelines that are available [here](#). Students doing research involving human subjects must check with the Office of Human Subjects Research in Ross Hall regarding necessary protocols and review procedures.

**12. Dissertation Defense (final oral examination).** After the dissertation has been accepted by the candidate's advisory committee, an oral examination specifically covering the dissertation and related topics will be administered. The student must pass this oral exam with not more than one dissenting vote of his advisory committee. The oral exam may be repeated once, but at least three months must elapse between attempts.

**13. Graduation.** To graduate in any given semester, the student must file an Application for Graduation by the dates specified for that semester in the university catalog and meet that semester's deadlines for submission of the Notice of Completion and the final copy of the dissertation to the Graduate School. Students should be aware that graduation application dates at the University of Nevada, Reno are unusually early: *the deadline is generally eight weeks prior to graduation.*

**14. Paperwork.** The student is responsible for knowing the degree requirements and for submitting all Graduate School forms on time. Early in their graduate careers, students should become familiar with the most important of these forms: the Graduate Credit Transfer Evaluation Request, the Program of Study, and the Admission to Candidacy/Comprehensive Examination Report, the Application for Graduation, and the Notice of Completion. Most Graduate School forms are available on the web at <http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/>. The Application for Graduation is available on the Graduate School's website: <http://www.unr.edu/grad/graduation>.

## PhD Literature Emphasis

### Specific Requirements

The PhD Literature emphasis is designed for people planning to pursue careers in scholarship and teaching at the college or university level. It is a rigorous but flexible emphasis in which individual programs of study are shaped through collaboration between the PhD student and his or her advisory committee. Students in the program are strongly encouraged to participate in professional activities, including academic conferences.

**1. General Requirements.** See the section on [general doctoral degree requirements](#).

#### 2. Course Requirements.

**a) Research Methods.** English 711, Introduction to Graduate Study, is required and must be taken at the first opportunity; it is customarily taught each fall semester. Students who have had a graduate-level research methods course at another university should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to see whether that course fulfills this requirement.

**b) Elective Courses.** The PhD Literature emphasis does not require a specific core of courses. Rather, the student and his or her advisory committee plan a course of study, considering the student's prior course work, primary areas of interest, planned examination fields, and long-term professional aspirations.

**3. Comprehensive Examination.** Each student in the Literature emphasis will take comprehensive exams in four areas: period, genre, topic, and author or major work (with committee approval, substitutions may be possible in this fourth exam area). The format for taking the exam, which is open-book, is determined by the student and his or her advisory committee. The questions for each of the four area exams will be designed to take about four hours to write. The four exams may be taken on consecutive days or spread out over several weeks, but should not be extended beyond a period of one month.

**Periods will be defined by the student and his or her advisory committee and may include fields such as twentieth-century British, twentieth and twenty-first century**

**global Anglophone, American to 1890, American since 1890, Students will be expected to be familiar with the literature, the literary history, and the intellectual history of the chosen period.**

**Genres will be defined by the student and his or her advisory committee. Students will be expected to know the major theories pertaining to their chosen genre, and the literature within their genre in the historical periods immediately preceding and immediately following their period of specialization.**

**The topic is a theme or focus selected by the student in consultation with his or her advisory committee. Normally this topic is suggested by the anticipated dissertation. The following list suggests the range of possibilities for the topic exam: feminist criticism, the elegy, rhetoric, stage history, literature and science, genre fiction, literary theory, ethnic American literature.**

**The major work or author will normally be chosen from the period and genre of specialization selected by the student, and will be chosen in consultation with the student's advisory committee. (Substitutions are possible with committee approval.)**

The written comprehensive examinations will be followed by an oral examination, as described under General Requirements. The student must register for English 795, Comprehensive Examination, one credit, the semester he or she will be completing the oral exam.

**4. Dissertation Defense (final oral examination).** After the dissertation has been accepted by the candidate's advisory committee, the committee will conduct an oral examination dealing with the dissertation and related topics. The defense will be approximately two hours in length.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the PhD English, Literature.

## **PhD Rhetoric and Composition Emphasis**

### **Specific Requirements**

The PhD Rhetoric and Composition emphasis is intended for people planning to pursue careers in scholarship, teaching, and program administration at the college or university level. The emphasis offers a core of work in rhetoric and writing theory, coupled with focused study in other fields of English language and literature, with possibilities for interdisciplinary study as well.

Students in the program are active in professional activities of various kinds, e.g., publishing, participating in conferences, and serving as interns in community agencies, educational institutions, or businesses.

**1. General Requirements.** See the section on [general doctoral degree requirements](#).



## 2. Course Requirements.

**a) Required Course.** English 730, Intro to Graduate Study in Rhetoric and Composition, or a comparable course at the MA level, is required and should be taken at the first opportunity. It is customarily offered each fall semester.

**b) Core Courses.** English 731, Research in Composition and Rhetoric; and either English 733, Classical through Medieval Rhetoric, or 739, Renaissance through Contemporary Rhetoric.

**c) Elective Courses in Composition and Rhetoric.** In consultation with the advisory committee, each student plans a program of study in composition and rhetoric courses. These courses are to be selected from 600- and 700-level offerings in the English department. If approved by the student's advisory committee, related course work may be taken in the College of Education, the School of Journalism, and such departments in the College of Liberal Arts as Anthropology, Psychology, and Speech/Theater.

**d) Additional Area.** The student also develops expertise in another area, typically in a field of literature or language, but with interdisciplinary study possible as well.

**e) Internship.** The student will complete a practicum or internship approved by the committee, including applied work in the field, documentation of that experience, and writing a paper and participating in a public forum discussing the implications of the internship. The internship may be taken for credit as English 736.

**3. Comprehensive Examination (written).** The comprehensive examination process serves as the endpoint of PhD coursework and is the last formal step before the evaluation of the dissertation prospectus. It is coordinated and evaluated by the candidate's committee.

The comprehensive examination is based upon three reading lists that together comprise a total of 80-120 sources. These lists should be composed by the student in collaboration with the student's chair and committee. The first list is the primary or major area and represent mostly canonical work. The other two lists represent particular areas of expertise directly relevant to the student's dissertation work. Generally, at least 40 of the sources are monographs.

Exams are generally taken the spring semester of the third year of the PhD program and should be completed no later than the end of the fall semester of the student's fourth year. The timing of the exams must be agreed upon between student, adviser, and committee well in advance.

The comprehensive examination consists of three components: three timed questions; a longer paper; and an oral examination. These three components together span roughly 10 weeks including evaluation time. The oral examination should be scheduled to take place no earlier than two weeks (14 days) and no later than four weeks (28 days) after the evaluation of the written components is returned. The written examinations must be passed by the committee for the oral examination to take place. Committees should give their evaluation of each component within a two-week (14-day) window. All three exams must be passed by the last day of instruction in the chosen semester for a Satisfactory grade to be entered for ENG 795.

Advancement to PhD candidacy is determined by (a) a Satisfactory grade recorded for ENG 795; and (b) the signing and filing of the “Doctoral Degree Admission to Candidacy/Comprehensive Examination Report” form, available at the Graduate School website. The Prospectus process begins immediately after the candidate is advanced (see Prospectus Guidelines).

The specific procedures for the three examination components are as follows and should proceed in order:

#### **First Component: Three timed written exams**

- This portion of the exam will consist of three written questions, answered in separate 24-hour sessions. These 24-hour sessions will be scheduled by the student and chair but must take place within four weeks (28 days).
- While each student has their own writing process, appropriate time should be allotted to prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and proofreading.
- The three questions will come from sets approved by the student’s committee. The first set will pertain primarily to the student’s first/canonical list while the second and third set of questions will primarily examine the secondary and tertiary lists...
- On each writing day, the chair will email the student one question set. This email marks the beginning of the 24-hour response period.
- On each scheduled date, the student will select one question from the emailed set to answer. The response should be 15-25 pages in length, depending on the number of texts engaged. Any sources used must be acknowledged in the text, but formal, formatted citations are not required.

#### **Second Component: Essay**

- This component is executed simultaneously with the timed exams and is to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled oral defense.
- The essay may be entirely new material, but it is more common for a student to take a seminar paper they have written and develop it toward publication.
- The essay should be of typical length for a journal article; generally 20-30 pages.
- In the essay, the student should articulate the conversation that has taken place about a particular scholarly problem in the field of Rhetoric & Composition; the student should enter that conversation with a clear, focused analytical argument;

the student should primarily employ relevant sources from the Comprehensive lists, though some outside sources, particularly primary sources, may appear.

- Committees may advise on the formulation of the topic for the essay before writing begins. However, they will not provide any kind of written outline or template for the essay; nor will they answer questions about the essay or read drafts of it during the writing period.
- The essay should be formatted as a MS for submission to a journal, including an abstract, citations for all source material, and a works-cited list in an appropriate disciplinary style (usually MLA, but Chicago and APA are also acceptable depending on the sub-field of Rhetoric & Composition).

### **Third Component: Oral exam**

- This portion of the exam will begin with a 20-minute presentation in which the student narrates their scholarly development up to this point in their academic career.
- This narrative should be a coherent, focused argument about the student's scholarly identity that articulates the importance and relevance of their interests to the field.
- This narrative presentation will be followed by a 1-hour session during which committee members will ask questions pertaining to the student's project and to the combined reading list.
- This component of the examination process will be an opportunity for committee members to follow up on any concerns or omissions related to the narrative presentation or to the written components of the examination.

**4. Dissertation Defense (final oral examination).** After the dissertation has been accepted by the candidate's advisory committee, the committee will conduct an oral examination dealing with the dissertation and related topics. The defense will be approximately one and one-half to two hours in length.

[Click here](#) for a checklist of degree requirements for the PhD English, Rhetoric & Composition emphasis.

For complete degree requirement checklists and timelines, please go to the following link:

[Degree Checklists and Timelines](#)

## **Graduate School Policies and Requirements**

### **Graduate School Academic Requirements:**

All graduate students must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0. If their GPA drops below 3.0 they are either placed on probation or dismissed. Undergraduate courses will not count towards graduate GPA.

Probation: students whose cumulative graduate GPA is .1 to .6 points below that needed for a 3.0 GPA are put on probation. Students are placed on academic probation for one semester. If they fail to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 by the end of one semester, they

are dismissed from their graduate program. Thesis, dissertation, S/U graded credits, and transfer credits have no impact on a student's GPA.

Dismissal: students whose cumulative graduate GPA is .7 or more grade points below that needed for a 3.0 GPA are dismissed. Dismissed students are no longer in a graduate program but may take graduate-level courses as a Grad Special. Students wishing to complete their degree must obtain approval to take graduate-level courses, raise their graduate GPA to at least 3.0 and then re-apply to a graduate program. Any courses taken to raise their GPA will be included in the graduate special/ transfer credit limitation (9 credits for master's degrees).

### **Transfer credits:**

These are credits transferred from another institution. Credits completed at UNR in another program or as a graduate special do not need to be transferred. Transfer credit is requested on the Graduate Credit Transfer Evaluation Request form available on Graduate School website <http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/GraduateCreditTransferEvaluationRequest.pdf> and must be signed by the student, major advisor, and graduate director. Transfer credits applied to a master's program must comply with the time limitation on master's work (6 years). Thus, if a student took a course five years prior to admission, they would have to complete the degree within one year for the course to apply to the degree. Credits from a completed master's degree will be exempt from the 8-year time limitation for those students earning a doctoral degree.

### **Timeline and degree completion**

#### **Master's degrees:**

All course work must be completed within six years preceding the awarding of the degree.

Doctoral degrees: All course work must be completed within eight years preceding the awarding of the degree. Credits transferred into doctoral degree from a completed master's degree are exempt from this eight-year limit.

### **Committee selection guideline**

#### **Master's Programs:**

All masters programs (with the exception of the Masters of Business Administration and the Masters of Accountancy programs) require at least three advisory committee members. All must be graduate faculty members. At least one (the graduate school representative or "outside" member) must be from a department or program different from the department or program from which the student is graduating.

Doctoral Programs: Consist of a minimum of five graduate faculty members; the chair, at least two faculty members from the student's major department/program, at least one faculty member from a department in a field related to the student's major, and at least one Graduate School representative.

In case of interdisciplinary graduate programs, the Graduate School Representative cannot have a primary appointment in the same department (or other appropriate major unit) as the student's committee chair.

Formal approval of all student advisory committees is made by the Graduate Dean

### **Graduate Assistantships**

All graduate students holding an assistantship (teaching GTA or GRA) are considered Nevada residents for tuition purposes. Non-resident tuition is only waived for the duration of the assistantship. To be eligible for an assistantship, students must be admitted to a degree-granting program and be in good academic standing. The student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and must be continuously enrolled in at least 6 graduate level credits (600-700) throughout the duration of the assistantship.

State-funded assistantships (GTA/GRA) may be held for a maximum of: three (3) years for master's degree students and five (5) years for doctoral degree students.

### **Health Insurance**

All domestic degree seeking graduate students, who are enrolled in six or more credits (regardless of the course level) in a semester, will be automatically enrolled and billed for the University sponsored health insurance for each term they are eligible (fall & spring/summer). If a student has other comparable coverage and would like to waive out of the student health insurance, it is the student's responsibility to complete the [University online waiver form](#) prior to the deadline. If approved, a health insurance waiver is good for the current academic year only. A new waiver must be submitted each academic year. All international graduate students are required to carry student health insurance, and the cost will be automatically added to your student account. Any international graduate students with insurance questions must contact the [Office of International Students and Scholars \(OISS\)](#) directly.

<http://www.unr.edu/grad/health-insurance>

### **Leave of Absence**

**Continuous Enrollment:** To maintain "good standing" all graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of three (3) graduate credits each fall and spring semester until they graduate. International students may be required to enroll in nine graduate credits each fall and spring semester depending on the requirements of their visa. All students holding assistantships (whether teaching or research assistantships) are required to enroll in a minimum of six (6) graduate credits each semester they hold the assistantship.

**Leave of Absence:** Students in good standing may request a leave of absence by completing a leave of absence form available on the Graduate School website ([http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/leaveofabsencer\\_9.23.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/leaveofabsencer_9.23.pdf)) during which time they are not required to maintain continuous registration. Usually, a leave of absence is approved for one or two semesters. The leave of absence request may be extended by the student filing an additional leave of absence form. Students applying for a leave of absence should not have any "incomplete" grades which could be changed to "F" and have a detrimental impact on their cumulative GPA. Requests for leave of absences must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the leave is to begin.

**Reinstatement:** When a student has been absent for one semester or more without an approved leave of absence, he or she may request reinstatement via the Reinstatement form (available on the Graduate School website [http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/noticereinstatementgraduatestanding\\_9.23.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/noticereinstatementgraduatestanding_9.23.pdf)). This form allows the program the option to recommend the student be re-admitted to their graduate program based on their previous admission OR require the student to re-apply for admission which would require students to submit a new application for admission and pay the application fee. The Notice of Reinstatement to Graduate Standing must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the reinstatement is to begin.

Forms that are required to be submitted to the graduate school:

Declaration of Advisor/Major Advisor/Committee Chair -  
<http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/delcaration-of-advisor>

- For master's students, completed form must be submitted to Graduate School by the end of the student's second semester
- For doctoral and MFA students, completed form must be submitted to Graduate School by the end of the student's third semester
- Program of Study - <http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/program-of-study.pdf>
  - For master's students, completed form must be submitted to Graduate School by the end of the student's third semester
  - For MFA and doctoral students, completed form must be submitted to Graduate School by the end of the student's fourth semester
- (Doctoral Programs only) Doctoral degree admission to candidacy - <http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/17doctoral-degree-admission-to-candidacy.pdf>
  - For doctoral students who completed all requirements except for the dissertation
- Graduation Application - <http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/graduation-application>
  - Must be submitted to the graduate school several weeks in advance. Check website for exact dates
- Notice of completion – completed form should be submitted after all requirements have been met.
  - Master's - <http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/notice-of-completion-master-degree.pdf>
  - Doctoral - <http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/notice-of-completion-doctoral-degree.pdf>
- Exit Survey - <http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/exit-survey>

You can find an updated list of forms and requirements here:  
<http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms>

## **Policies FAQs**

Here are answers to the most commonly asked questions about rules and regulations as well as the most important policies that apply to graduate students in English. If you have a question not answered here, please contact the Director of Graduate Studies.

### **Audits**

To audit a class the student must sign up through Admissions & Records. You cannot sign up for an audit through MyNevada. Audit credits DO count toward the 6 credits required to maintain a TA-ship or the 3 credits required to maintain active standing. But audit credits do not count toward the total number of credits required for the degree, and audited courses may not be used to fulfill degree requirements. Audit credits are not always covered by Grant-in-Aid. Although audited courses cannot be applied to a degree program, they do appear on a student's transcript.

### **Comprehensive exam (795), Thesis (797), and Dissertation (799) enrollment**

To enroll in the Comprehensive Exam (795), students must have completed their foreign language requirement(s) and filed their Program of Study. To enroll in thesis (797) or dissertation (799) hours, students must have filed their Program of Study. Permission forms to register for these course numbers are available from the front office and require your chair's signature.

### **Deadlines**

The two most important sources for information about deadlines are the Graduate School's website and the UNR Academic calendar, accessible from your MyNevada webpage. It is a good idea to consult these sources every semester, print the pages, and record key dates in your planner. Here are the links:

Graduate School's Important Dates: [LINK](#)

### **Grant-in-Aid caps for TAs, and Letters of Exception**

The Graduate School's Grant-in-Aid for TAs is capped at 9 credits per semester, but exceptions can be made. If your curricular needs are such that you plan to enroll in more than 9 credits in a given semester, notify the Director of Graduate Studies, explaining what courses you will be taking and how they contribute to your graduate program. Pending approval of your request, the Director of Graduate Studies will send a Letter of Exception to the Graduate School, which will consider making an exception to the 9-credit fee waiver cap. There is a processing time involved, so notify the Director of Graduate Studies as soon as you know what courses you plan to take.

### **Grant-in-Aid for Foreign Language courses**

If you are a TA and are registered for a foreign language course to meet requirements for your degree, you should notify the Director of Graduate Studies of the course. The Director of Graduate Studies will send a Letter of Request to the Graduate School, which will then

consider covering your foreign language course through a grant-in-aid fee reduction. However, the Graduate School does not grant fee reductions for an open-enrollment course through the UNR department of Online and Independent Learning. Summer foreign language courses are not covered by grant-in-aid.

### **Incompletes for 795, the Comprehensive Exam**

If a student does not take the exam in the semester for which he or she registered, the instructor assigns a grade of “I” (incomplete), and the student may take the exam the following semester without reregistering. After the student takes the exam, the instructor uses a “Change of Grade” form (available from Alec) to submit the grade.

If the student does not take the exam the following semester, the Incomplete will revert to a “U” (Unsatisfactory = Fail) unless an Incomplete Extension form is filed. That form is available from Admissions and Records (in person—it is not online).

### **Internships (Eng. 736)**

The steps to setting up an internship are as follows:

- Enlist an English Department faculty member to supervise the internship.
- Choose an internship and a site supervisor.
- Write an internship proposal that both the faculty supervisor and site supervisor agree to.
- Pick up 736 Internship permission form from Alec.
- Get your faculty supervisor's signature. (Must determine # of credits; internships are variable credit and can be taken from 1-4 credits.)
- Signatures needed: faculty supervisor, committee chair, site supervisor, Director of Graduate Studies
- Return signed form to the front office and you will be cleared to register.
- Internships may not be used to fulfill course requirements for the degree (unless the degree requires an internship).

No more than 4 credits of 736 may be counted toward the degree.

### **Leave of Absence**

The Graduate School grants a Leave of Absence for medical reasons and other emergencies. To request a Leave of Absence, a student should fill out an [Application for Leave of Absence](#) form, downloadable from the Graduate School. The form should be signed by the student's chair and then the Director of Graduate Studies. As the application states, Leaves of Absence are treated the same as Withdrawals for financial aid purposes. If the student returns to his/her study prior to the date indicated on the Leave of Absence Application, he/she needs to request to the Grad School to be reinstated. Note that the Graduate School's clock still ticks during the student's Leave—6 years for MAs, 8 years for PhDs.

### **Minimum Enrollment**

Students in graduate programs at UNR are required by the Graduate School to enroll in a minimum of 3 graduate-level credits in each fall and spring semester to remain in graduate standing. Those failing to do so will be dropped from graduate standing to graduate special



status. It is at the discretion of the Department of English, subject to the regulations of the Graduate School, whether students who fail to maintain graduate standing are to be readmitted to the program at any subsequent date. Students who are unable to take the minimum number of credits in a given semester should thus request a leave of absence in writing, using the form available from the Graduate School, if they wish to retain their standing in a graduate program. (See Leave of Absence, above.)

To keep a teaching assistantship, a graduate student must continue to make satisfactory progress in a graduate degree program. A TA must register for a minimum of 6 graduate credits each semester to maintain an assistantship. In addition, he or she must pass at least 10 graduate credits each year. It should be noted that these are *Graduate School* minimums; meeting them does not prove satisfactory progress in English.

### **Overload work for those on TA**

If you are a TA in English and you wish to take on additional work of any kind (e.g., tutoring, extra teaching, paid research help to a faculty member), please first talk with your committee chair about the advisability of that extra work. If your chair approves of that extra work in the context of your work for the TA and your progress on your degree, please ask your chair to send an email to the Director of Graduate Studies expressing approval of that extra work. If the Director of Graduate Studies approves the work overload, the DGS administrative assistant will generate a Work Overload form, which the Director of Graduate Studies signs. Alec sends the signed form to the Graduate School. The overload work must be approved by the Graduate School before the TA begins the work.

### **Program of Study**

The English Department strongly advises students to form their advisory committee and file their Program of Study form in a timely fashion. MA students should complete their Program of Study form in their second semester of study, while PhD students should do so in their third semester. Filing your Program of Study on this schedule will reduce delays in your time to graduation. You may not sign up for the Comprehensive Exam (795) until your Program of Study is filed and your foreign language requirement has been met.

The Program of Study form is available here:

<http://www.unr.edu/Documents/graduate-school/program-of-study.pdf>

To see a sample of a completed Program of Study form,

[Click here](#) for an MA form

[Click here](#) for a PhD form

The following is an ordered plan for Programs of Study, from first to last step. Although it looks involved, we have found that this procedure saves everyone time in the long run. Please bring your transcripts, course records, draft Program of Study, and checklist to all meetings.

1. Fill out a draft Program of Study during or after consultation with your chair. Please note that, for English graduate students, total credits required for the degree should be based on

English program requirements (e.g. Non-thesis MA 33, thesis MA 31, MFA 60, PhD 73) and not the minimums listed on the graduate school POS instructions.

2. With your chair, check the form, looking at transcripts and using degree checklist, making note of how the foreign language requirement has been met. Chair does not sign in this step.
3. Meet with the Director of Graduate Studies to check the form.
4. After Director of Graduate Studies Okays the form, type it neatly, print, and obtain the signatures of your chair and other committee members.
5. Get the signature of Director of Graduate Studies by short appointment. The Director of Graduate Studies oversees the next three steps:
6. Front office staff sends Program of Study to Graduate School.
7. The Graduate School checks the form, signs, files, and returns copy to the English department.
8. The English department notifies you that your approved Program of Study is on file or that revision is necessary.

## **How to Apply for a Teaching Assistantship**

### **New Applicants**

New applicants to the English Graduate Program may apply for a Teaching Assistantship at the same time as they apply for admission (using the same College NET form).

### **Current Students**

If openings exist, current students may apply for a Teaching Assistantship every semester. Students who have applied before but have not been appointed to a Teaching Assistantship, or who would like to apply for renewal of a short-term assistantship, must reapply. See below for deadlines and instructions.

#### *Deadlines*

*Fall TA: complete applications are due January 15.*

*Spring TA: complete applications are due October 1.*

Applications that are not complete by these deadlines will not be considered.

#### **Required Materials**

- An application letter, which should be specifically aimed at making clear the applicant's current experiences, qualifications, and/or ambitions as a teacher.
- [Application for Teaching Assistantship](#) (download from the website, fill in, and print completed form)
- Three letters of recommendation written within the last year, which if possible should address the applicant's current experiences, qualifications, and/or ambitions as a teacher. (If you plan to re-use letters from a previous application, ask Brenda Kishpaugh to transfer them to your new application file.)
- CV

## **Where to Submit your TA Application**

Current students should submit their TA application to Roxie Taft, in the English Department Office by the deadlines specified above.

Questions? Contact or email the current Director of Graduate Studies or the front office staff at 784-6689.

## **Additional Funding**

### **Additional Funding**

Graduate students have multiple opportunities for financial aid at UNR.

The English Department offers a variety of annual awards and scholarships. The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships provides information and assistance in applying for loans and university merit-based scholarships. UNR's Graduate Student Association also provides its own scholarships, grants, and loans to qualified graduate students.

On-campus employment opportunities are available at the [UNR Writing Center](#) and in the [Intensive English Language Center](#). Teaching Assistants who wish to take on additional work must get approval for an overload--see the FAQ page. [LINK](#)

For additional financial aid options, see the list of external funding opportunities, below. Whether in the form of a scholarship, loan, grant, or fellowship, the financial support you need to pursue your education is available at UNR.

### **English Department Support**

In addition to Teaching Assistantships, other forms of financial support are available through the English Department, including Letter-of-Appointment teaching, Travel Awards, Summer Research Assistantships, Scholarships, and Fellowships.

- Letter-of-Appointment Teaching. LOAs teach first-year courses on a part-time, course-by-course basis. If you are interested in applying to teach as an LOA, please contact the English Department's [Core Writing Program](#). In addition to being paid for the courses they teach, LOAs receive reduced tuition, for up to six credits, equal to the number of credits they are teaching. For example, if an LOA teaches a 3-credit course, then the tuition for 3 of the graduate credits he or she is taking that semester is reduced.
- Travel Awards. Graduate students may apply for up to \$300 per year toward travel to a conference at which they are presenting a paper.
- Summer Research Assistantships. Continuing graduate students are eligible to apply for a summer research assistantship, designed to provide supplemental financial assistance, to give students an opportunity to gain experience in various academic fields, and to help prepare them to undertake their own future research projects. SRAs

pay \$15 per hour up to a maximum of \$1200 (80 hours) for a student to work on a faculty member's summer research project.

- Scholarships and Fellowships. The English Department awards a variety of annual scholarships and fellowships, including the Douglass Memorial Scholarship for teaching, the Ronald Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, the Macmillan and DQ Scholarships for writing, and the Leonard Scholarship for academic excellence. We also have had good success nominating our students for university and system-wide scholarships, such as Access Scholarships and the Regents Outstanding Scholar Award.

### **UNR Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships**

Located in the [Fitzgerald Student Services Building](#), the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships is an indispensable resource for UNR students looking to fund their educations.

The Office provides information and assistance on a variety of student financial aid issues, including applying and receiving student loans, filling out the FAFSA, and links to university and external merit-based scholarships. Additionally, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, in collaboration with the Graduate School, administers a limited number of general scholarships for graduate students. For more information, [click here](#).

### **UNR Graduate Student Association**

UNR's Graduate Student Association (GSA) is one of the main sources of financial aid for UNR's graduate student population. Each spring semester, the GSA sponsors an awards program for outstanding UNR graduate students, and awards scholarships and grants in several categories, including research, teaching, and mentoring.

In addition to merit-based scholarships and loans, the GSA also provides travel grants to graduate students attending professional conferences, and offers a number of need-based scholarships, grants, and loans for current graduate students, including scholarships for childcare and medical hardships, loans for purchasing computer equipment, and grants for students experiencing unexpected financial crises. Additionally, the GSA Household Items program collects and distributes various furniture items and other household necessities for current graduate students. Visit them in-person at the [Joe Crowley Student Union](#), or [online](#).

### **Writing Center**

The University Writing Center provides writing assistance to UNR's entire student population, from undergraduate to graduate, in any stage of the writing process. Writing tutors assist students via one-on-one peer consultation or in small group instruction.

The Writing Center is partially funded by student fees, and staffed entirely by a team of committed undergraduate and graduate students. New writing consultants are hired at the end of each semester. To find out more about employment opportunities at the Writing Center, [click here](#).

### **Intensive English Language Center**

The Intensive English Language Center (IELC) provides English language instruction to international students and non-native speakers wishing to improve their English language ability. Additionally, the IELC helps prepare students for general academic studies by teaching language and study skills in addition to introducing students to American culture and university life.

Employment opportunities may be available for qualified graduate students. To find out more about the IELC, visit them on the web [here](#).

### **Extramural Scholarships & Fellowships**

Below is a brief listing of some of the many national and local financial aid opportunities available to qualified graduate students.

#### ***GRAPES: Search engine for graduate funding***

The UCLA Graduate Division has an open search engine to identify funding sources for graduate students and post docs. The UCLA GRAPES database contains information on over 500 private and publicly funded awards, fellowships, and internships for prospective and current graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

Advanced search options allow users to refine their search by field, academic level, award type, award amount, and other criteria.

Access the database at: <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/grapes/search.asp>

#### ***Humanities Fellowships for ABDs***

- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships

The Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are designed to encourage original and significant study of ethical or religious values in all fields of the humanities and social sciences, and particularly to help PhD candidates in these fields complete their dissertation work in a timely manner. For more information, [click here](#).

- Henry Frank Guggenheim Foundation

The foundation welcomes proposals from any of the natural and social sciences and the humanities that promise to increase understanding of the causes, manifestations, and control of violence, aggression, and dominance. Highest priority is given to research that can increase understanding and amelioration of urgent problems of violence, aggression, and dominance in the modern world. For more information, [click here](#).

- Jacob K. Javits Fellowships Program

This program provides fellowships to students of superior academic ability—selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement, financial need, and exceptional promise—to undertake study at the doctoral and Master of Fine Arts level in selected fields of arts, humanities, and social sciences. For more information, [click here](#).

- Mellon Fellowships for Dissertation Research in the Humanities and Original Sources

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation fellowships are for students in the humanities or in a related element of the social sciences who are planning to do dissertation research primarily in original source material in the holdings of archives, libraries, historical societies, museums, related repositories, or a combination. For more information, [click here](#).

- Mellon Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship

This program assists graduate students in the humanities or related social sciences in the last year of PhD dissertation writing. Students must have completed all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation. For more information, [click here](#).

- Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowships

The Dissertation Fellowship Program seeks to encourage a new generation of scholars from a wide range of disciplines and professional fields to undertake research relevant to the improvement of education. For more information, [click here](#).

### ***Grants for Women***

- American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellowships

The AAUW Educational Foundation supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. AAUW offers a variety of fellowships to both international and American female students. For more information, [click here](#).

<http://www.aauw.org/>

- Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund Grants

Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund (MMMMF) awards grants to outstanding women from developing countries, who are completing degrees at U.S./Canadian universities, and are committed to improving the wellbeing of women and children in developing countries. For more information, [click here](#).

### ***Grants for Minority Students***

- Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships for Minorities

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships for Minorities are three-year awards in the fields of behavioral and social sciences, literature and languages, history, philosophy and religion, life sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, physics and astronomy, engineering, mathematics and computer science. There are around 40 of these awards, which are open to U.S. citizens or nationals who are members of the following minority groups: Alaskan Natives (Eskimo or Aleut), Native American Indians, Black/African Americans, Mexican Americans/Chicanos, Native Pacific Islanders (Polynesian or Micronesian) and Puerto Ricans. For more information, [click here](#).

### ***Grants for Washoe County***

- Kendyl Depoali Memorial Scholarship

The Kendyl Depoali Scholarship has been created to help teachers get as much education as they can so that they can become even more effective educators in their content areas to help all of Washoe County School District's students to succeed. Applicants must be full-time middle-school or high school teachers in the Washoe County School District. For more information, [click here](#).

## **Graduate School**

**The Graduate School** of the University of Nevada administers all of the graduate degree-granting programs across campus.

On the UNR Graduate School's [website](#), you will find information about:

- Graduate Admissions
- Forms
- Funding & Assistantships
- Academic Calendar and Important Deadlines
- Degrees & Programs
- News & Events

## **Campus Resources**

UNR Library  
Gender, Race, and Identity Program  
Graduate Student Association  
Center for Student Cultural Diversity

## **Campus Resources**

The University of Nevada, Reno is dedicated to providing its students with all the resources they need to have a successful academic career. UNR is a Research One university, and students have access to extensive print and media-based resources at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, the main university library.

Graduate students looking to take courses and get involved beyond the English Department may be interested in UNR's Gender, Race, and Identity Program. Students seeking options for additional funding, or for social, academic, and leadership opportunities can find them through UNR's Graduate Student Association. Additional support services and social opportunities can be found through the Center for Student Cultural Diversity, which welcomes all university students.

For a virtual tour of the UNR campus, including 360° panoramas, [click here](#).

## **UNR Library**

An indispensable resource on the UNR campus, the [Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center](#) combines traditional library resources with new digital and multimedia technologies. At 295,000 square feet and five-stories tall, the Knowledge Center is both the intellectual and cultural hub of the UNR campus.

In the main library, the Knowledge Center houses over 1 million volumes of books and journals, plus 15,000+ electronic journals and a growing collection of electronic books. In Special Collections, researchers have access to manuscripts, architectural records, and historical maps, in addition to more than 200,000 photographs, and over 20,000 volumes of historical, rare, and artists' books. If you still can't find what you're looking for, the Knowledge Center has excellent Interlibrary Loan agreements to make sure you always have access to all the research materials you need. Check out the library's [home page](#).

Additionally, the Knowledge Center is the home to the [Nevada Writers Hall of Fame](#) the [@One](#) computer and multimedia center, and the Basque Studies Library and [Center for Basque Studies](#), the only Center for Basque Studies in the United States.

The Knowledge Center also contains a 163-seat auditorium with stage, an art gallery, a sculpture garden, and special exhibit areas.

The Knowledge Center is an ideal study location as there are computers available throughout the library featuring extensive online databases, multiple group study rooms, and quiet study locations. Graduate students have dedicated study space within the Faculty & Graduate Reading Room, a large, spacious, and comfortable area located on the fourth floor of the Knowledge Center. Private study carrels may be reserved on an annual basis.

Bytes Cafe, which serves the popular Peet's Coffee, is easily accessible on the main floor of the library. Additional food and drink concessions are available next door at the [Joe Crowley Student Union](#).

To find out more about the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, [click here](#).

## **Gender, Race, and Identity Program**

The Gender, Race and Identity (GRI) program is an umbrella of several majors and minors, with a graduate certificate program, designed to enhance students' understanding of the roles gender, race, and difference have played in shaping history, culture, and identity. The program is designed to enrich participants' scholarly understanding of these issues and is open to graduate students from multiple disciplines across campus, including English.

Students wishing to earn a [GRI Certificate](#) as part of their graduate studies must complete 12 credits of approved coursework. To find out more about the GRI program, [click here](#).



## **Graduate Student Association**

At UNR, the Graduate Student Associations functions as one of our graduate students' greatest support services, offering funding to attend conferences, computer loans, and low-cost household items. In addition, the GSA offers a variety of loans and merit-based scholarships to graduate students.

GSA sponsors a number of social events throughout the semester, including a beginning of the semester wine and cheese social, and end of the semester breakfast and massage.

Visit them in person at the [Joe Crowley Student Union](#) or [online](#). The Student Union, which meets LEED Silver certification for sustainability, features five fireplaces and many lounge areas whose full-length, south-facing windows afford spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada mountains. The Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) Bookstore (and convenience store) stocks a wide range of university apparel, office supplies, textbooks, and computers, all tax-free. The eight restaurants and coffee shops inside "the Joe" cater to a diversity of tastes.

## **Center for Student Cultural Diversity**

The Center for Student Cultural Diversity is a comprehensive intercultural office which offers support services for all students on the UNR campus, while placing emphasis on students that self-identify as African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, American Indian, Hispanic/Latino, Multiracial/Biracial, First-Generation, Income-qualified, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT).

All programs and services are offered at no cost and include: academic advisement, leadership development, retention services, financial management counseling, career and major exploration, time management, goal setting, and study skills training. Additionally, the Center sponsors a number of intercultural student organizations, while students who wish to simply study or relax can do so in the Center's computer lab, study area, or plasma TV, Blu-Ray, and video game lounge.

Visit the Center in person at the [Joe Crowley Student Union](#) or [online](#).