APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Admissions Requirements
Admission to the graduate program leading to the Master of Arts in English requires the following:

1. A baccalaureate degree in English from an accredited college or university, including two period courses and the equivalents of ENGL 3000, ENGL/LING 3600, and ENGL/LING 4650;
2. A 3.0 GPA (A=4.0) for the last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) attempted, and a 3.0 GPA in upper-division English courses;
3. For those students who do not fulfill the minimal GPA requirement described in point 2, they must earn a score of 151 on the verbal measure of the Graduate Record Exam General Test and a score of 500 on the Literature in English Subject Exam.
4. For international students whose first language is not English, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher (or 213 on the new conversation scale for the computer-based TOEFL). Documentation must be provided in original form by the testing institution; copies submitted by the applicant are not acceptable.

Students who have a baccalaureate degree in a subject other than English must complete the eight-course (24 units) undergraduate core requirements for English with a GPA of 3.0 before being considered for admission to the master’s degree program in English. The undergraduate core requirements are described below. All courses are to be selected in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator for English.

Classification of Graduate Students
There are three classifications for students in the English graduate program:

Classified
A student who meets all the requirements for admission to the master’s degree program in English will be admitted as a Classified Graduate Student. A Classified Graduate Student may take any graduate-level course meeting the requirements of his or her plan of study as long as the appropriate prerequisites have been met.
Conditionally Classified
A student who meets most but not all of the requirements for admission as a Classified Graduate Student may be admitted as a Conditionally Classified Graduate Student. The Graduate Committee for English will determine the conditions which the student must meet in order to be advanced to Classified Graduate Student status. A Conditionally Classified Graduate Student may take no more than two three-unit courses that count towards the requirements for the MA in English while meeting the specified conditions.

Candidacy
Classified students who have maintained a 3.25 GPA will be advanced to candidacy in the term in which they intend to graduate.

Academic Advising
It is essential that MA students stay in contact with the Graduate Program Coordinator, so the department can provide current information to help the student move expeditiously through the program. It is the student’s responsibility, in consultation with the Graduate Program Coordinator, to choose appropriate courses and to organize a thesis or examination committee. Meeting with the Graduate Program Coordinator is an important first step in the MA program. The Graduate Program Coordinator advises and guides students during the period of graduate study and responds to any concerns students may have while in the program. Students have a responsibility to schedule regular meetings with the Graduate Program Coordinator.

Committee Selection
Each MA student in English must have a committee, either to provide examinations or to read and guide the thesis. The Graduate Program Coordinator can provide assistance in forming an MA committee.

Program Requirements
Note: Students who wish to pursue the doctorate in English are strongly encouraged to begin or continue the study of one or more foreign languages. Courses in French and Spanish are available at CSUB in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Each master’s candidate must complete a minimum of nine English graduate courses of three units each, plus two three-unit courses (ENGL 5000 and either ENGL 6710 or ENGL 6720). Students must earn a GPA of 3.0 (B) or better. (No course in which the student receives less than a B- (2.7) will count toward the degree.)

Requirements for the Master of Arts in English
Required courses:
1. ENGL 5000 must be taken as one of the student’s first three graduate English courses.
2. ENGL 5610 or 5620
3. ENGL 5010

The remaining class requirements are divided into seven groups marked with Roman numerals below, which are in turn divided into twelve fields. Students take one class to fulfill each group, meaning that most students will not take classes in five of the twelve fields. The content of the missing fields constitutes the material for the comprehensive examination.

I. 1. ENGL 5300
   2. ENGL 5310 or 5320
   3. ENGL 5330 or 5340
II. 4. ENGL 5350
     5. ENGL 5520 or 5360 or 5370
III. 6. ENGL 5220 or 5230
     7. ENGL 5210 or 5240 or 5250
IV. 8. ENGL 5110
    9. ENGL 5120
V. 10. ENGL 5130 or 5020
   11. ENGL 5140 or 5150

ENGL 6710 or 6720
Upon completion of all course work, students enroll in ENGL 6710 or 6720. ENGL 6710 is an independent course, which culminates in a written comprehensive examination based on the department’s standardized reading list. Students study the fields in which they have not had a class. The examination must be passed with a grade of B- (2.7) or better, and it may be taken no more than two times.

Undergraduate Courses for Graduate Credit
Graduate students normally will take courses from those numbered in the 5000-6000 level series, but they may substitute one or two 3000-4000-level classes (supplemented by additional graduate-level work) with the permission of the instructor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. With the approval of the instructor of the class and the Graduate Program Coordinator, graduate students may also take up to two graduate courses in independent study mode; however, ENGL 5000, 5610, 5620, and 5010 are not available through independent study mode.

Additional Requirements
Writing Competency Requirement
All graduate students must satisfy the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) as soon as possible, unless they have already done so as undergraduates or graduates at CSUB or at another California State University. This requirement may be met by passing the regularly scheduled
examination or by successfully completing ENGL 3109, 3119, or 3128; this requirement must be satisfied before the student may take the final comprehensive examination.

Time Limitation on Course Requirements
State law mandates a seven-year limitation on course credits. Students who fail to complete their degree programs within the seven-year limit may petition the Department’s Graduate Committee to permit the revalidating of outdated courses. If granted, such revalidation will normally require an oral or written examination on the course content, supervised by a specialist in the field.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Teaching Assistant Program in Writing
The Teaching Assistant Program in Writing begins with a one-semester apprenticeship in a composition course or courses in the department. If the faculty mentor’s evaluations are positive and enrollment is sufficient, the student will be assigned to his or her own class for a maximum of three semesters. Students are required to take ENGL 6000 in conjunction with their apprenticeship. Prerequisites for the Teaching Assistant Program in Writing are (1) completion of ENGL 5130 with a grade of B+ (3.3) or better; (2) completion of 20 hours of tutoring; (3) advancement to classified status; and (4) a graduate GPA of at least 3.5.

Teaching Assistant Program in Literature
The Teaching Assistant Program in Literature begins with a one-semester apprenticeship in a literature course in the department. If the faculty mentor’s evaluations are positive, the student may apply to work as a teaching assistant for an instructor in ENGL 1208. Students are required to take ENGL 6000 (3) in conjunction with their apprenticeship. Prerequisite: ENGL 5020 with a grade of B+ (3.3) or better.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Writing
This certifies the completion of specialized training in writing by those who hold a BA or an MA degree, whether or not they are involved in a graduate degree program. Candidates for this certificate must complete with a B- or better four specific graduate writing courses selected from the following five: ENGL 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140 and 5150.

Supplementary Authorization in English
The Supplementary Authorization in English is designed to train instructors with multiple subject credentials to teach literature in the middle grades. The four courses comprising the supplementary authorization—ENGL 5030, 5040, 5050, and 5060—are taught exclusively online and offered through Extended University. Faculty contact is Dr. Robert Carlisle.

Sigma Tau Delta
The English department is home to the Xi Tau Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international honor society for English majors. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students are encouraged to apply. Faculty advisors are Dr. Emerson Case and Dr. Andy Troup.

California Writers Series
Each year the English department sponsors two or more readings by poets and fiction writers living and working in California. Previous presenters have included Wanda Coleman (Guggenheim and NEA Fellow) and Kay Ryan (Pulitzer Prize winner and former United States Poet Laureate). Faculty contact is Dr. Marit MacArthur.

Lectures in Language and Linguistics
Linguists from universities throughout the state and region come to campus two or more times per year to present lectures on phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Faculty contact is Dr. Sophia Adjaye.

English Club
Students majoring or minoring in English are welcome to meet in an informal setting to discuss literature, language, classes, and all other aspects of campus life. Meetings are generally held every Friday afternoon. Faculty advisors are Dr. Emerson Case and Dr. Andy Troup.