The Master of Arts in English at Georgia Southern University prepares its students for a variety of careers in publishing, public relations, teaching, and advanced doctoral work. Students who enroll in the Master of Arts program in English enjoy the engaging atmosphere of graduate study and work closely with faculty members. The program fosters a genuine sense of community while providing students with opportunities for professional development, which is unusual for our size. The program faculty are all published scholars with a wide variety of specialties. We are dedicated to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment, which is exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement.

The Master of Arts in English creates learning experiences of the highest quality, informed by our individual scholarly practice, research, and creative activities. At GSU we offer a student-centered environment enhanced by technology and transcultural experiences. Our graduates are able to situate and interpret texts in their historical and cultural contexts, use appropriate literary criticism and theories, and present different critical stances. Most importantly, our students can plan and execute an original research agenda which results in work of a publishable level. Recent graduates of the English program have been accepted into PhD programs at Princeton, Michigan State University, University of California Riverside, University of Connecticut, Texas A&M University, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina Greensboro, University of Alabama, University of Southern Mississippi, University of North Texas, and University of Denver.

Georgia Southern University is a public, Carnegie Doctoral/Research university devoted to academic distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service. The University’s hallmark is a culture of engagement that bridges theory with practice, extends the learning environment beyond the classroom, and promotes student growth and life success. Georgia Southern’s nationally accredited academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional studies prepare a diverse and select undergraduate and graduate student population for leadership and service as world citizens. Faculty, staff, and students embrace core values expressed through integrity, civility, kindness, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness, and social responsibility.
Central to the program’s mission is the faculty’s dedication to excellence in teaching and the development of a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement. Georgia Southern faculty are teacher-scholars whose primary responsibility is the creation of learning experiences of the highest quality, informed by scholarly practice, research, and creative activities. The program offers a student-centered environment enhanced by technology, transcultural experiences, private and public partnerships, and stewardship of a safe residential campus recognized for its natural beauty.

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE?

Our program offers a variety of courses led by experts in their areas.

- American Realism
- The Bible as Literature
- Children’s Literature & Theory
- Contemporary Poetry
- The Gothic World
- Irish-American Fiction
- Jewish American Literature
- Literature of the Civil Rights Movement
- Literature of the English Renaissance
- Post-Colonial Literature
- Victorian Prose & Poetry

We also regularly offer courses focused on individual authors who our faculty specialize in, such as...

- Samuel Beckett
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Ernest Hemingway
- Henry James
- James Joyce
- Cormac McCarthy
- William Shakespeare
- Edith Wharton

WHAT SETS GEORGIA SOUTHERN APART?

The Center for Irish Research and Teaching (or An tlond um Thaighde agus Theagasc Éireannach) at Georgia Southern University is the Flagship Irish Studies Program for the University System of Georgia. The Center’s primary mission is to provide world-class, inquiry-driven instruction through course offerings both on campus and in Ireland. The center regularly offers Lectures, Masterclasses, Concerts, Exhibitions, Conferences, and Symposia on diverse Irish identities—native, Ulster-Scots, and diaspora—with a dedicated emphasis on the Irish in Georgia and the American South. The summer of 2015 constitutes the fourth consecutive year of the Center facilitating independent thesis and dissertation research in Ireland for up to five weeks on site. The Center works with the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies to ensure the integrity of these opportunities, and welcomes any discipline, and thus far has helped eight graduate-student researchers in computer science, education, English literature, history, and mechanical engineering. Examples of achievements to date include field research into hydroponic systems that extend the season for Irish strawberries; field research into the Gaelscoil and Educate Together initiatives that are changing Ireland’s primary and secondary education sectors; and archival research into the role that soldiers from Nottingham, England, played in the republican Rising in Dublin during Easter 1916.

The Department of Literature & Philosophy also houses the Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies. JCPCS publishes interdisciplinary and cross-cultural articles, interviews, and creative writings on the literatures, the histories, the politics, and the arts whose focus, locales, or subjects involve Britain and other European countries and their former colonies, the now decolonized, independent nations in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, and also Australia, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand. The journal works in close conjunction with the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. The conference, inaugurated in 1992, is the oldest and longest-running annual international meeting of its kind. The aim of the conference is to be interdisciplinary and cross-cultural, and to offer scholars and researchers the opportunity to disseminate and discuss their knowledge and understanding of a dynamic and increasingly important international field. In light of the cross-disciplinary focus of the conference, we have seen a growing number of thematic presentations on areas such as: Bioethics, Ecology, Migration and Diaspora, Literature, Borders disputes, Religion, Politics, Art, New Media, History, Ethics, Economics, Globalization, Pedagogy, and even Health & Wellness. Recent Keynote Speakers have included Jahan Ramazani, Leela Gandhi, Rey Chow, Barbara Harlow, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Sara Suleri Goodyear, and Patrick Colm Hogan.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Conference Liaison Program

One of the ongoing goals for the English graduate program is to familiarize our students with the professional world, and to demystify the internal workings of many of its institutions. We would like to extend an opportunity to do just that to the entire graduate body here at Georgia Southern. To that end, English graduate faculty created a “conference liaison” program for graduate students.

This program provides hands-on professional training for organizing and hosting conferences (including correspondence with delegates, panel construction, training for session chairing, as well as on-site organization, and working with site liaisons). Liaison students not only gain both a theoretical and practical understanding of academic conferences, but also take away the experience of an important aspect of the professional world, model networking skills, and hone the too often overlooked value of academic administration.

Each of these faculty leaders have has a strong commitment to helping students both advance their research and to develop as professionals. One of the best ways to build this kind of development is to see how the administration of certain academic organizations functions. Academic conferences provide an intersection of intellectual and career advancement. These conferences are not only the genesis of much of our research material and agendas, but they also provide an ideal training ground for new academic professionals to learn about administration in the academy.
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HOW DO I APPLY?

The Graduate Committee for the Master of Arts in English looks at a number of factors when deciding on admission into our program. Each of these items helps provide context for the total of the application. Once you start your application, you’ll need to have the following things ready:

**Application** - We ask all students to begin the College of Graduate Studies Application as soon as possible. Access the application online at http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu/admission/start/applynow/

**Transcript** - We look for an undergraduate major or the equivalent in or related to our field of study, and that you’ve fully completed the requirements for a Bachelor’s degree in a college accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting associations. We also look for a 3.0 (4.0 scale) cumulative grade point average or higher on all undergraduate work.

**GRE Scores** - You can send these directly to us through ETS’s school selection, or have them sent afterwards as well.

**Recommendation Letter** - We ask for two to three letters of recommendation by persons familiar with your experience, as well as to your post-graduate and professional potential.

**Writing Sample** - We ask for a sample of your best scholarly writing of at least 12-15 pages.

**Statement of Purpose** - We ask that you compose a brief statement (250-500 words) that addresses your academic achievements and major accomplishments, contributions to or experiences in this field of study, pertinent extra-curricular activities, and the reasons why you wish to attend Georgia Southern.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Arts in English program offers some competitive Graduate Assistantships through the Literature & Philosophy Department, but also works to help students secure funding as Graduate Assistant through employment opportunities offered by the university at large. Typically, positions offered through the program allow you to work with the university writing center, with faculty teaching World Literature course, with faculty on their research projects, and as Administrative Assistants for professional activities. Graduate assistants receive a tuition waiver of the standard in-state and out-of-state tuition but must pay a reduced matriculation fee of $25 per semester along with all assessed university fees.

**Teaching Assistants (TAs)** conduct a wide range of activities related to the classroom from serving as discussion leaders in breakout sections, grading papers, or proctoring exams. During your second year, you might be eligible to teach as an instructor of record. As an advanced TA, you will work with a department supervisor to help construct and manage a course where you will have primary instructional responsibility for a course.

**Research Assistantships (RAs)** are research positions which allow you to aid in or conduct research of a scholarly nature, normally under faculty supervision.

**Graduate Assistantships (GAs)** are assistantships which provide general administrative support to academic and administrative units within the University. These Assistantships enhance your educational experience by exposing you to the professional activities of your disciplines, involve you in university activities related to your academic and professional interests, and afford you the opportunity to work closely with faculty and professionals.

For further questions please contact the MA in English program director Dr. Dustin Anderson at danderson@georgiasouthern.edu.