

ENGLISH (PHD)

The PhD in English offers in-depth training in a variety of historical eras and cultural traditions, from the Medieval period to the contemporary moment. Students choose an area of specialization – Early Modern, Nineteenth-Century, or Modern – but also take courses in other areas. We offer many opportunities for students interested in getting involved in the digital humanities as well as other kinds of content, like archival studies, public humanities, and initiatives for exploring new futures in the humanities.

Related Programs

Master's

- English (MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/english/english-ma/>)

Combined

- English (BA/MA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/accelerated-bachelors-masters-program/english-ba-ma/>)

Curriculum

The PhD requires a total of 60 credit hours of coursework, a qualifying written and oral examination, and a dissertation. According to Graduate School regulations, work on the PhD must be completed eight years from the time you have begun coursework applicable to the degree; if you entered with an MA, you will have six years from the time of beginning course work for the PhD.

Required Coursework

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		9
ENGL 400	Intro to Graduate Study	
ENGL 402	Teaching College Composition	
ENGL 502	Independent Study-Doctoral Qualification	
Select two of the following: ¹		6
<i>Textual Studies Courses</i>		
ENGL 412	History of the Book to 1800	
ENGL 413	Textual Criticism	
ENGL 415	Media and Culture	
<i>Critical Theory Courses (at least one)</i>		
ENGL 410	Contemporary Literary Criticism	
ENGL 420	Topics in Critical Theory	
ENGL 422	Postcolonial Theory	
ENGL 423	Marxist Literary Theory	
ENGL 426	Feminist Theory and Criticism	
ENGL 427	Dramatic Theory	

Field-Specific Requirements 24

Students choose one of three specialized fields: Medieval and Renaissance Literature; Nineteenth-Century Studies; or Modern Literature and Culture. Students take six (6) courses in their chosen and 1 course each from the other two specializations, eight (8) courses total.

Electives

Seven (7) ENGL 400-Level or Higher Electives	21
Total Hours	60

- ¹ At least one course must be in critical theory. Students should confer with Graduate Program Director when selecting courses to ensure that they are the best fit for their course of study.

Field-Specific Requirements

Doctoral students in English who have completed the MA degree will enter one of the following three specialized fields and must meet the course requirements defined for that specialization. Students will be free to change their field at any time, provided that they are able to fulfill the course requirements for the new field. Students may choose to specialize in Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Nineteenth-Century Studies, or Modern Literature and Culture. Students will complete at least six (6) courses in their specialization, at least one (1) course in each of the other two specializations, and seven (7) 400-level elective courses of their choosing. **Note that several of these requirements will be partly or wholly fulfilled by all students as a part of their MA study.**

If a student has been required to take certain undergraduate courses as a condition of admission, those courses have priority over all other program requirements. Undergraduate courses cannot be counted towards the PhD degree requirements.

Medieval and Renaissance Literature Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 440	Topics in Medieval Literature	3
ENGL 441	Old English Language & Literature	3
ENGL 443	Middle English Literature	3
ENGL 444	Medieval Drama	3
ENGL 447	Chaucer	3
ENGL 450	Topics in Early Modern Literature & Culture	3
ENGL 455	Shakespeare	3
ENGL 456	Early Modern Drama	3
ENGL 457	Seventeenth-Century Literature	3
ENGL 458	Milton	3

Nineteenth-Century Studies Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 460	Topics in Restoration & 18th Century Literature	3
ENGL 466	Eighteenth-Century Novel	3
ENGL 470	Topics in Romanticism	3
ENGL 471	Poetry of Romantic Period	3
ENGL 475	Topics in Victorian Literature	3
ENGL 476	Victorian Poetry	3
ENGL 477	Victorian Prose	3
ENGL 478	Victorian Novel	3
ENGL 490	Topics in American Literature	3
ENGL 491	Early American Literature	3
ENGL 492	American Romanticism	3
ENGL 493	American Realism	3

Modern Literature and Culture Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 480	Topics in Modernism	3
ENGL 481	Modern Poetry	3
ENGL 482	Modern Drama	3
ENGL 483	Modern Novel	3
ENGL 484	Literature and Culture of the Jazz Age	3
ENGL 485	Contemporary Literature	3
ENGL 487	Postcolonial Literature	3
ENGL 488	20th Century Literature in English	3
ENGL 489	Magic Realism	3
ENGL 494	American Literature Since 1914	3
ENGL 495	Latino/a Literature	3
ENGL 496	African American Literature	3

Optional Specialization in Digital Humanities

Ph.D. students may obtain a specialization in Digital Humanities. To obtain this specialization students take one foundational course, followed by two electives. Note that COMP 400A or equivalent is a prerequisite for certain electives.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Foundational Course ¹		
Select one of the following:		3
COMP 400A	Object-Oriented Programming	
COMP 400D	Computing Tools and Techniques	
DIGH 400	Introduction to Digital Humanities Research	
DIGH 402	Digital Humanities Design	
Electives ²		
Select two of the following:		6
COMP 400B	Data Structures I	
COMP 400C	Data Structures II	
COMP 401	Computer Security	
COMP 412	Open Source Computing	
COMP 417	Social and Ethical Issues in Computing	
COMP 436	Markup Languages	
COMP 441	Human-Computer Interaction	
COMP 477	IT Project Management	
COMP 502	Structure of Research Management and Funding	
COMP 503	Technology Entrepreneurship	
DIGH 401	Introduction to Computing	
DIGH 403	Introduction to Web Application Development	
DIGH 500	Digital Humanities Practicum	
ENGL 413	Textual Criticism	
ENGL 415	Media and Culture	
Total Hours		9

¹ Students are allowed to take any course from this list as an elective if not being used to meet this requirement.
² Other 400-level courses may count toward the specialization with approval of the Director of Graduate Programs.

Research Tool

Ph.D.-level research in literary studies presupposes skills (or 'research tools') not taught in ordinary graduate-level coursework in a Department of English. In view of the multilingual character of humanist study, scholars of literature must often read text in a language other than their principal one. For these reasons, as fulfillment of the discipline's research tool, Ph.D. students in the Department of English are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in a language other than English. This may be done by (a) passing a translation examination or (b) receiving a grade of B or higher in a graduate-level course in a language other than English. Exams and coursework at other institutions will usually be accepted, subject to review by the Director of Graduate Programs. Under special circumstances priority may be given to another research tool: for instance, a computer language, statistical analysis, or protocols for research with human subjects. Students are encouraged to discuss completion of this requirement with the Director of Graduate Programs soon after entering the program.

PhD Qualifying Examination

The PhD examination has a written component and an oral component. The written component consists of three three-hour essays. Each essay covers a field articulated by the student in consultation with their examining committee and the director of graduate programs. There are two basic kinds of field:

- An area of literary theory or research methods
- Literature of a historical period

The second type of field may be narrowed further, for instance to a particular genre, tradition, or region. Most students devise one field of the first type and two of the second. Other configurations are possible with approval of the graduate programs director.

Field descriptions and reading lists are worked out by the student in consultation with their examining committee and must be approved by examiners and by the graduate programs director. Field statements are due one month prior to the exam date.

The oral component is a two-hour oral examination, based on but not limited to the writing produced in the written component.

Candidacy and Defense

Students advance to doctoral candidacy when they have fulfilled all required courses and the research tool requirement, passed the Ph.D. qualifying examination, established a dissertation committee, and produced an approved dissertation proposal.

Readers' copies of the completed dissertation are due to the dissertation committee one month prior to the final public presentation and defense.

Suggested Sequence of Courses

Students should consult the Graduate Program Director (GPD) to outline course selection and academic objectives. Students take ENGL 400 Intro to Graduate Study during their first Fall semester and ENGL 402 Teaching College Composition in their second Fall semester unless waived by the GPD for students entering with an M.A. With the guidance of the GPD, students will complete the remainder of their 400-level coursework in Critical Theory, Textual Studies, Field-Specific Requirements, and Electives based on offerings. ENGL 502 Independent Study-Doctoral Qualification should be taken at the end of the student's 400-level

coursework, before starting ENGL 610 Doctoral Study and ENGL 600 Dissertation Supervision.

Responsible Conduct of Research

All PhD students and students in thesis-based Master's degree programs must successfully complete UNIV 370 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship or other approved coursework in responsible conduct of research as part of the degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that students complete this two-day training before beginning the dissertation/thesis stage of the program.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supersede school policies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the PhD program students will be able to:

- Write effectively about a broad range of texts in English using effective compositional and rhetorical techniques.
- Assess and intervene in existing scholarly discourses in the field as a literary critic.
- Distinguish and interpret diverse experiences across various social formations (race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, etc.) as registered in literary works.
- Evaluate and apply the principles of a range of critical and textual theories, including those emerging from communities that have been historically underrepresented, in order to produce a sustained analysis of literary works.
- Define, distinguish, and evaluate three fields of study in literature as defined by historical period, genre, critical theory, and/or single author.
- Employ significant developments and emergent trends in pedagogical theories, methods, and materials to teach college-level composition and literature effectively.
- Use a variety of research methods (e.g., close reading, textual criticism, linguistic analysis, archival, biographical, etc.) and interpret the findings in order to produce a sustained analysis of one or more literary works.
- Defend scholarly interpretations and interventions at a professional level, leading to internal and external conference presentations, publication, fellowships, grants, and academic employment.