



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Applying for the WSU Graduate Program in English

General information and Frequently Asked Questions

Graduate Studies in English

The graduate program in English at Washington State University supports students working toward advanced degrees at both the M.A. and Ph.D. levels. Students may elect to concentrate in Literary Studies or Rhetoric and Composition. The English Department also offers graduate certificates in Teaching English as a Second Language and Digital Humanities and Culture. Along with courses in English, students are free to take specialized seminars in related disciplines such as History, Women's Studies, Education, and Philosophy.

Funding

WSU's English graduate program fully funds almost all of its M.A. and Ph.D. students. Students receive support in the form of a Teaching Assistantship, which comes with a full tuition waiver, health insurance, and a nine-month stipend. M.A. students are guaranteed funding for two years, and Ph.D. students for five years. We also provide students with annual funding for travel to conferences, and opportunities exist within the Department to work with our academic journals (*ESQ* and *Poe Studies*) and computer lab.

Teaching Opportunities

Unlike other programs where new graduate students are given only a few weeks of training prior to teaching, WSU offers a full fall semester of English 101 teacher preparation before students become instructors of record in spring semester. The teaching load is two courses for the first year and three courses during subsequent years. Ph.D. students generally teach at least one advanced undergraduate and one online course during their course of study.

Applications for Fall 2021 admission are due January 10, 2021.
Learn more at <https://english.wsu.edu/graduate-studies/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

See also the WSU Graduate School's FAQ at <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/faqs/>.

1. How do I apply for the WSU M.A. or Ph.D in English?

To be admitted to the Graduate Program in English, you must apply through the WSU-Graduate School's online application form here: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/apply/>. The priority application deadline is January 10.

2. I'm especially interested in research in a particular field of study. Can you tell me whether your program has any faculty researchers with my interests?

Our program has researchers in a broad range of fields. You can find their specializations listed here <https://english.wsu.edu/people/> and here <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees/factsheet/doctor-of-philosophy-english/>.

3. Here are my scores on various tests and my GPA. Can you tell me my chances of admission to the program? Do I need to take the GRE?

First, some good news: you don't need to take the GRE to apply. We don't require the GRE main or subject test for admission.

We can't evaluate your materials or prejudge your chances for admission, however. We can only consider applications received through the Graduate School by January 10.

We don't have a set list of scores for determining admission, but the WSU Graduate School, and hence the English Department, has a GPA requirement: "Prospective domestic students must have received a baccalaureate degree from a college or university, accredited by a recognized association, with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00." (See <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/domestic-requirements/>)

The English Department's Graduate Studies Committee meets after the January 10 deadline to consider the pool of applications and make selections for admissions. They look closely at writing samples, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and grades as part of an overall process.

4. Can I apply for the Ph.D. program directly after receiving my B.A.?

Our Ph.D. program applicants must all have completed an M.A., so you can't apply directly after receiving your B.A.

5. How long should my writing sample be? Should I send it to you directly?

Writing samples should be the length of a seminar paper or an article, about 10-25 pages, double-spaced. They are typically drawn from papers you've written for your graduate or undergraduate courses or from a master's thesis. They should demonstrate your ability to do critical, analytical work of the kind required for your program of study.

All materials must be uploaded to the WSU Graduate School site rather than being sent directly to us.

6. What kinds of support are available?

WSU's Graduate Program in English is committed to supporting admitted M.A. and Ph.D. students with teaching or research assistantships.

Unless you have another source of full funding, such as a Fulbright Scholarship or government support, we offer you a teaching assistantship if we offer you admission to the M.A. or Ph.D. program. If you have a teaching assistantship, you will be granted a waiver giving you in-state tuition from the first year of your program as long as you apply for residency immediately. See <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/establishing-residency/> for information on establishing Washington residency.

7. Will you pay for my travel to Pullman and my living expenses? Will the teaching assistantship cover all my expenses?

We cannot pay for your travel or living expenses beyond the teaching assistantship. From the teaching assistantship stipend, students pay tuition, fees, and all living expenses, including travel. There are no additional funds available from the English Department, and we cannot guarantee that the teaching assistantship will cover all expenses.

International students on F-1 and J-1 visas will need to provide verification of financial support. The teaching assistantship and tuition waiver will constitute some (but not all) of the required support. (See <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/documents/2017/02/certificate-financial-responsibility.pdf/>)

WSU also offers scholarships and fellowships; information is available at <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/scholarships-fellowships-awards/>. More information on financial assistance is available here <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/preparing-for-graduate-school/> and here <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/student-finance-page/>.

8. Do I need to send you official transcripts at the time I apply?

More good news: you don't need official transcripts to apply; you can upload unofficial transcripts. However, if you are accepted you will need to supply official transcripts before you are officially admitted to the program.

Official transcripts must be sent to the following address:

Washington State University / Admissions
Stadium Way, 324 French Administration Building

P.O. Box 641030
Pullman, WA 99164-1030

Transcript services may send an email link to gradschool@wsu.edu.

Do NOT send an email link to a transcript download service to the Director of Graduate Studies or the Academic Coordinator. Transcripts sent in this manner cannot be processed and do not count as an official transcript.

See <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/faqs/> for more details.

9. When will I hear the results of the application process and whether I've been admitted or not?

The Admissions Committee's review of applications involves a great deal of reading and discussion, so the process takes time. The very earliest you would hear about your admissions status would be early in March of the year in which you applied.

The process of admission extends into April and even May sometimes, if you are on a waitlist. The reason for this is that WSU adheres to the Council of Graduate Schools' (CGS) resolution (<https://cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution>), which means that all initial offers are valid until close of the business day on April 15 of the admissions year. Once candidates in the initial round have made their choices, those on the waitlist may receive an offer of admission.

If you have been accepted, you will receive an initial email during this time period, followed by an admissions offer sent as a .pdf via email and by postal mail. If you have not been admitted, you will receive a .pdf letter sent via email and postal mail.

10. I'm an international student and will need to send documentation; where can I do so?

Here's a link to the WSU Graduate School's information on applying for international students: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/international-requirements/>. This page has the information you need about financial support, documentation, and so on.

11. What TOEFL score do I need for admission?

Non-native speakers must take the TOEFL exam (preferably the TOEFL internet-based test [TOEFL-iBT]), the IELTS, or the Michigan Test of English Language.

Minimum Scores are as follows (from <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/international-requirements/>)

TOEFL:

Minimum TOEFL Scores	Paper	Computer	Internet	MELAB
English	580	237	93	82

IELTS: The minimum acceptable IELTS score is 7.

Applicants whose first language is not English must also submit to the English Department's Academic Coordinator, Tanya Gonzales (tanya_gonzales@wsu.edu) a CD or .mp3 recording for the purpose of evaluating their spoken English. The recording should last 3-5 minutes and constitute a brief introduction to the applicant and his or her interests.

To be considered for admission, you will need to submit the recording whether or not you intend to apply for a teaching assistantship.

Also, international applicants who are awarded a teaching assistantship need to arrange a test to assess their proficiency at teaching in English. The details are here: <https://ip.wsu.edu/learn-english/teaching-assistant-evaluations/>.

12. Is it possible to have the application fee waived?

The fee for applying to the WSU Graduate School can't be waived. The applicant must pay the application fee in order to have the application processed and to be considered for admission.

13. Would it be possible to defer my application or offer of admission until next year?

Unfortunately, no. Offers of admission and applications are good only for the year when you applied or were accepted; there are no deferrals of either until the subsequent year. You are always welcome to reapply for the next admissions cycle, however.

14. Whom should I contact with additional questions?

If you have additional questions, please contact either the Director of Graduate Studies (Roger Whitson, roger.whitson@wsu.edu) or the Academic Coordinator (Tanya Gonzales, tanya_gonzales@wsu.edu).

Thanks for your interest in the WSU English Graduate Program!

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