

## MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH STUDIES & COMMUNICATION



### Program Description

The Master of Arts in English Studies and Communication is a 37 credit program for international and U.S. students wanting to develop their understanding of and skills related to the English language, English literature, and English communication. The program has three primary goals: (1) to develop a deeper understanding of and proficiency in the English language through the studies of the history of English, American literature, and cultures of writing; (2) to develop written and oral English language communication skills; and (3) to develop an appreciation of American literary and cultural traditions. This program may be particularly useful for:

- Current English teachers in the U.S. and foreign countries who want to elevate their overall English language and literature skills for the purpose of teaching English;
- English majors in other countries who want to improve their general proficiency in the English language for use in business or industry;
- Those with a bachelor's degree in English who eventually want to pursue Ph.D. study in English or other areas in the humanities;
- Those wanting to prepare for teaching English abroad;
- Those wanting to obtain a general master's degree in the area of the humanities (e.g., for teaching at the community college level).

Why this program? Special features make this program highly distinctive and attractive. For example, students:

- Become part of a strong cohort group with similar goals;
- May complete the program in 12 to 18 months;
- May take an optional course in Professional & Career Development to prepare for a job search or doctoral study;
- Gather bi-weekly at lunch to discuss issues related to their courses;
- Take a practicum in order to refine English language, writing, and (when appropriate) teaching skills;
- May complete an optional certificate in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), by completing 3 additional credits beyond the 37 required for the degree;
- Bring U.S. and international perspectives to the study of English;
- Pay a highly competitive tuition rate with no hidden costs.

### Criteria for Admission

Graduate Studies & Continuing Education - Valparaiso University

Applicants must meet the [admission requirements of the Graduate School](#), along with the following:

- Undergraduate or graduate major or minor in English and evidence of English language competency;
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 550 (paper version), 230 (computer-based), or Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT) score of at least 80; minimum IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of 6; CET score of 6, or an INTERLINK Language Center Level 5, or the equivalent for non-native English speakers;

The MA in English Studies & Communication program features a continuous admission process, so application materials may be submitted at any time. Once received, the admission decision normally takes 2-3 weeks.

#### Curriculum

MA in English Studies & Communication		37 credits
General Requirements		6 credits
LS 610	Seminar in the Humanities	3 cr
LS 640	Seminar in the Fine Arts	3 cr
Concentration		25 credits
COMM 645	Intercultural Communication	3 cr
ENGL 531	Advanced Composition	3 cr
ENGL 541	History of the English Language	3 cr
ENGL 601	New Literacies, Technologies, & Cultures of Writing	3 cr
ENGL 610	Topics in American Literature & Culture	3 cr
One course in Organizational Communication		3 cr
ENGL 685	Practicum in English	3 cr
ENGL 699	Seminar in English Communication (2 semesters)	1 cr
ENGL	Any Graduate Writing Course	3 cr
Electives-select two from the following		6 credits
ENGL 568	TESOL: Theory & Methods I	3 cr
ENGL 569	TESOL: Theory & Methods II	3 cr

Electives as approved	3 cr
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## Example Plan of Study

Fall (August-December)	
New Literacies, Technologies & Cultures of Writing	Seminar in Humanities or Fine Arts
Advanced Composition	Seminar in English Communication
Spring (January-May)	
History of the English Language	Seminar in English Communication
Topics in American Literature & Culture	Elective
Summer I & II (May-August)	
Organizational Communication	Interpersonal & Intercultural Communication
Seminar in Fine Arts or Humanities	
Fall (August-December)	
Any Graduate Writing Course	COMM/ENGL
Practicum (e.g., Daily Writing or TESOL)	

English Studies and Communication Thesis Option The English Studies and Communication (ESC) program provides a thesis option for qualifying students, particularly those interested in pursuing doctoral level study. Specifically, students approved for this option must take 3 credits beyond the regular ESC degree (40 credits total) and complete a 28-credit concentration.

Thesis work comprises up to 6 credits. Three credits of coursework-applied toward the elective category- are first completed as ENGL 692 Research Project or ENGL 695 Independent Study and are intended for the development of a thesis proposal. With satisfactory completion of ENGL 692/695 and approval of thesis candidacy, the student may enroll in ENGL 795 Master's Thesis. These credits may substitute for ENGL 685 Practicum in the concentration.

Admission to Thesis Candidacy Students meeting the following criteria may be accepted as candidates for the ESC thesis option. Prospects must demonstrate that they have met the qualifications for thesis work through an application for Thesis Candidacy. This form requires the signatures of two or more Valparaiso University faculty, one from the student's area of concentration, who have agreed to serve on the thesis committee. In addition, the prospect must provide evidence of having completed the prerequisite coursework, submit GRE scores of 1100 or above (for quantitative plus verbal), have achieved a grade point average of 3.7 or higher in all graduate coursework at Valparaiso University, and have successfully completed ENGL 692/695 with a grade of A or A-.

Thesis prospects must have completed 21 credits of ESC before enrolling in ENGL 795. Since enrollment in ENGL 692/695 is currently permitted after 12 credits are completed, the thesis proposal work may be included in the 21 credits of prerequisite coursework .

**Thesis Implementation** A thesis may involve academic or applied research, or creative work. Research projects may be primarily analytical, critical, and synthetic in nature, or they may be primarily empirical (data based). To ensure an appropriate methodology, students carrying out a research project, particularly one that is empirical, may be advised to complete a course on Research Methodology in an appropriate discipline prior to undertaking thesis work.

An important step in the thesis process is selection of the thesis committee. Prospects should not assume that any or all faculty can or will agree to serve on a thesis committee. Rather, they will need to demonstrate through the quality of their graduate coursework, as well as the alignment of their topic with faculty interest and expertise that faculty mentoring is both deserving and possible.

Thesis work is generally carried out in two phases. ENGL 692/695 is intended for the development of the thesis proposal and should result in a preliminary review of the field and a detailed proposal of study or of the project (e.g., 30-40 pages plus an appropriate list of references or citations). This coursework should be carried out under the supervision of at least one of the faculty who will serve on the thesis committee. If the proposal is approved by the thesis committee, the student may enroll in ENGL 795 Master's Thesis. The thesis itself should represent a significant contribution to the field and be of publishable or exhibition/exposition quality. Upon completion, the thesis is reviewed by the faculty of the thesis committee and defended by the student at public forum announced by email one week in advance to the students and faculty of the program. Two bound copies of the approved thesis must be filed with the Graduate School Office, one of which will be placed in the University Library for archival records.

Thesis work is encouraged during summer sessions when both faculty and students typically have more time available for more intense intellectual interaction.

**TESOL CERTIFICATE** The need for individuals to teach English to non-native speakers is increasing rapidly. Opportunities abroad are, and will continue to be, abundant. In most cases, evidence of formal training in the Teaching of English to Speakers of Another Language (TESOL) is becoming increasingly important and in some instances required.

Valparaiso University offers a 15 credit graduate TESOL certificate. While the program is open to any degree seeking graduate student at Valparaiso University, this certificate would be most practical for students in programs with a language or international focus (e.g., International Commerce & Policy, English Studies, Chinese Studies, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, etc.). In general, students in graduate degree programs may use up to 9 credits from their degree toward the TESOL certificate, but the actual number will depend on the specific degree program. For the Master of Art in English Studies & Communication, for example, 9 credits of appropriate coursework may be applied toward the TESOL certificate.

The certificate is also open to non-degree students in the Graduate School, including international students and members of the Northwest Indiana community.

**Admission Requirements** Students currently or previously enrolled in a graduate degree program at Valparaiso University need only submit the application for the TESOL certificate, updated transcripts, and evidence of prior experience learning a foreign language. All others must, in addition to the above, meet standard admission requirements of the Graduate School.

REQUIRED COURSES		12 cr
ENGL 541	History of the English Language	3 cr
ENGL 568	TESOL: Theories and Methods I	3 cr
ENGL 569	TESOL: Theories and Methods II	3 cr
ENGL 685	Practicum in English (TESOL)	3 cr
<i>Choose at Least 3 Credits.</i>		
COMM 645	Intercultural Communication	3 cr
ED 504	Educational Psychology	3 cr
ENGL 502	Introduction to Professional Writing	3 cr
ENGL 511	Introduction to Technical Writing	3 cr
ENGL 525	Creative Non Fiction	3 cr
ENGL 531	Advanced Composition	3 cr
ENGL 543	Introduction to Linguistics	3 cr
ENGL 580	Topics in Writing	3 cr
ENGL 601	New Literacies, Technologies, and Cultures of Writing	3 cr

Financial Considerations Students may be surprised to discover the affordable tuition rate at Valparaiso University. Tuition for the 2011-2012 academic year is \$530 per credit hour, highly competitive for a private institution of recognized national quality. Full-time graduate students pay a \$146 general fee each fall and spring semester. Part-time graduate students pay a \$95 general fee each fall and spring semester. [Financial aid](#) is available through direct and indirect student loans for students taking 6 credits or more during fall and spring semesters. Because most course offerings are scheduled for the evening, many students hold part- or full-time employment during their study.

For more information about the Master of Arts in English Studies and Communication program To learn more about the Master of Arts in English Studies and Communication, visit their department website at <http://www.valpo.edu/english/>. Interested students should [request an information packet](#) from the Office of the Graduate School through our website or by e-mailing [Graduate.School@valpo.edu](mailto:Graduate.School@valpo.edu).

[Click here](#) to apply online!