

ENGLISH - PH.D.

College of Sciences and Humanities
 Department of English
www.kent.edu/english

About This Program

Shape the stories that shape the world with Kent State’s English Ph.D., where advanced study in literature, rhetoric and writing is grounded in the power of narrative to drive change. Through rigorous research and creative inquiry, you’ll learn to analyze and craft narratives that influence ideas, inspire action and open doors to impactful careers in academia and beyond, from law and education to information science. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

English language and literature teachers, postsecondary

- 2.1% slower than the average
- 81,300 number of jobs
- \$69,000 potential earnings

Proofreaders and copy markers

- -2.7% decline
- 10,300 number of jobs
- \$41,140 potential earnings

Secondary school teachers, except special and career/technical education

- 3.8% about as fast as the average
- 1,050,800 number of jobs
- \$62,870 potential earnings

Additional careers

- Authors and writers

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Master’s degree in English or related discipline from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Goal statement (1-2 pages)¹
- Writing sample (12-25 pages) relevant to the field of study
- Three letters of recommendation²
- *Starting with the spring 2027 admission term:* Interview with faculty (virtual) for applicants being considered for assistantships
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:³
 - Minimum 102 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 7.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 73 PTE score
 - Minimum 130 DET score

¹ Goal statement should describe relevant preparation, research interests and long-range academic and career goals.

² Recommendation letters should be from current or recent professors/ advisors who can speak to the applicant’s intellectual abilities and scholarly potential.

³ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Application Deadlines

Fall Semester

- Funding deadline: December 1 (international student) and January 15 (domestic student)

All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) must be submitted by this deadline to be considered for an assistantship or any other funded position.

Spring Semester

- Rolling admissions

*Applicants for the spring semester will **not** be considered for funded assistantships.*

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
ENG 76705	NARRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES	3
ENG 76706	UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH METHODS AND DESIGN IN LITERATURE AND WRITING STUDIES	3
ENG 76707	PRACTICING NARRATIVE RESEARCH METHODS AND DESIGN	3
English Electives, choose from the following:		21
ENG 72291	SEMINAR:BRITISH LITERATURE 1800 TO PRESENT	
ENG 73034	SOCIOLINGUISTICS	

ENG 75012	READING AND INTERPRETING RESEARCH ON WRITING
ENG 75022	RHETORICAL THEORY:GREEK AND ROMAN
ENG 75027	ROLE OF COMPOSITION
ENG 75035	LINGUISTICS FOR RHETORICIANS
ENG 75051	LITERACY: FUNCTIONS, PRACTICES AND HISTORY
ENG 75052	WRITING ACTIVITY AS SOCIAL PRACTICE
ENG 75053	WRITING TECHNOLOGIES
ENG 76051	SHAKESPEARE
ENG 76101	LITERATURE OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR
ENG 76103	ETHNIC LITERATURE OF THE UNITED STATES
ENG 76104	AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE
ENG 76302	POST-COLONIAL LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
ENG 76491	LITERARY MOVEMENTS
ENG 76501	NARRATIVE LITERATURE
ENG 76502	DRAMATIC LITERATURE
ENG 76595	SPECIAL TOPICS:AUTHORS AND AUTHORSHIP
ENG 76791	SEMINAR:BRITISH AND IRISH LITERATURE
ENG 76891	SEMINAR:LITERATURE OF THE UNITED STATES
ENG 76895	SPECIAL TOPICS
ENG 76991	SEMINAR:GENRE
ENG 77104	SOCIAL AND CULTURAL THEORY AND CRITICISM
ENG 77591	SEMINAR:THEORY AND CRITICISM
ENG 77691	SEMINAR:SCHOLARLY EDITING
ENG 85024	DOMAIN RHETORICS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE
ENG 85041	FIELD RESEARCH METHODS IN WRITING
ENG 85042	DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
ENG 85054	STUDIES IN LITERACY AND COMMUNITY
ENG 85055	THE NATURE AND RELATIONSHIP OF ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC LITERACY
ENG 85056	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF WRITING ASSESSMENT: RESEARCH, THEORY AND PRACTICE
ENG 85057	RHETORICAL METHODS
Other Coordinator-Approved Electives	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>	
ENG 89199	DISSERTATION I ¹ 30

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 60

¹ Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for ENG 89199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for ENG 89199, and thereafter ENG 89299, each semester, until all requirements for the degree have been met. Credit hours for ENG 89299 do not count toward the degree.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- Students on appointment who have not had college teaching experience are required to take ENG 61094. The master's-level course cannot be applied toward the doctoral degree.

- Students are required to pass a foreign language requirement for the degree.

Candidacy for the Degree

Doctoral students must pass two written examinations in two distinct areas of English studies before being admitted to candidacy. They must also defend a dissertation prospectus.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Analyze and interpret literary and non-literary texts and narratives.
2. Interpret and explain research in and connections between the fields of narrative theory, literary studies, rhetoric and writing studies.
3. Design and implement an original long-form research project and apply appropriate research methods.
4. Communicate research clearly and effectively in written, oral, and/or multi-modal formats.
5. Demonstrate effective teaching skills and knowledge of appropriate teaching theories, if on appointment.

Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in English offers students extensive learning in the areas of literature, rhetoric and composition, writing studies and beyond, with a distinctive focus on narrative. The program provides a deep and nuanced understanding of the ways narratives not only represent the world but also make it and change it, for both good and ill.

Narrative is defined very broadly as a fundamental and ubiquitous mode of thought that guides perception, constructs feelings and directs actions, operating at varying scales, in all domains and through multiple media and modes of perception. Students acquire advanced skills in critiquing, revising and creating narratives in the service of more effective and socially responsible problem solving, decision making, innovation and action planning. These skills are useful in a range of professions both in and outside the university, including law, teaching and library and information science. Graduates are well prepared to engage with a changing world.