

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Graduate Programs of Study

English and Communication

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts (MA) in English and Communication offers a personalized and interdisciplinary program of study in literature, writing, rhetoric, and communication, making it unique within the SUNY System. Both the coursework and the thesis project allow for breadth and depth of experience in areas that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and allow for intellectual synthesis of English and Communication. What unites these fields is the notion that all texts and utterances exist as part of discursive systems. Individual advising, carefully selected classes and program construction, and a commitment to students are central to the program. The program welcomes part-time students, and most classes are scheduled in the evening to accommodate those with daytime employment. There are no GRE requirements, and applications are reviewed as they arrive throughout the calendar year, although graduate assistantship applications should adhere to the published deadlines.

Requirements for Admission

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 9)

Additional Admission Requirements:

1. Applicants shall have earned a bachelor's degree with a major in English, Communication, or Writing from an accredited college or university. Those who have accredited degrees in humanities and social sciences fields such as History, Philosophy, Politics, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies, are also encouraged to apply, but they must be aware that additional coursework might be required.
2. Submission of three letters of recommendation, at least two of which shall be from undergraduate professors in the academic discipline of the baccalaureate degree.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 (A=4.0) in the most recent 60 semester hours of undergraduate study.
4. A writing sample, preferably a recent essay written for an upper-level English or Communication course or senior seminar that shows evidence of scholarly research and writing.

5. For applicants who have significant work experience, a substantial piece of workplace writing may be substituted (grant writing, public relations, researched journalism, etc.).
6. Each student must demonstrate competence in a foreign language equivalent to that required for the awarding of a Bachelor of Arts degree at SUNY Potsdam.

A comprehensive approach to these distinct yet related fields defines the core graduate experience at Potsdam, making the program ideal for:

- Students who need the specialized skills an MA offers for their careers: teaching at community colleges; editing and publishing speeches, documents, and multimedia; and working for business, governmental agencies, and/or the corporate world in a multitude of capacities.
- Students who are preparing themselves for the pursuit of a PhD.
- Public school teachers who are pursuing a master's in English and Communication as part of their permanent certification.
- Those who may already possess a master's degree but are looking to enhance their knowledge and skills.

“The English and Communication Department at SUNY Potsdam is home to scholars of literatures, rhetoric, speech communication, composition, and linguistics, making it unique within the SUNY system.”

English & Communication Course Requirements

A minimum of 36 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of the Master of Arts in English and Communication. At least 27 of the 36 credit hours must be taken at the 600 level. Upon admission into the program, students should meet with the Director of Graduate Studies in the English and Communication Department for advising.

The 36 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses 6

- GECD 601 Introduction to Graduate Studies
- GECD 606 Thesis Workshop

Electives 21

(7 courses and a maximum of three 500-level courses)
 Students will select, with prior adviser approval, seven graduate English and Communication courses, at least twelve hours of which must be completed at the 600 level. A maximum of nine hours may be taken at the 500 level in any courses offered by the Department of English and Communication.

Thesis Credits..... 9

- GECD 690 Thesis Credits

The Master's Thesis and Committee: Each candidate must show evidence of his or her ability to research a discursive problem and write the findings clearly and correctly. To meet this requirement, the student prepares a Master's thesis (50-100 pages), which should demonstrate the student's ability to interpret closely and critically on a subject agreeable to the student and the advisers of his or her Master's thesis.

The Master's Committee consists of an adviser and a reader, and they both must be active members of the department.

All courses are 3 credits unless noted.

Mathematics

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts (MA) in Mathematics program is designed to develop the student's ability to work independently and to enable him or her to obtain basic knowledge in algebra, real and complex variables, and topology so that mathematics literature can be read with understanding and enjoyment. The successful completion of this program should prepare a student to enter a second-year doctoral program in mathematics, to begin a career as an industrial mathematician or as a faculty member at a junior or community college.

Requirements for Admission

General Graduate Admission Requirements (see page 9)

Additional Admission Requirements/Notations

1. A baccalaureate degree granted by an accredited college or university with preparation substantially equivalent to that required of mathematics majors at this institution.

2. Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from members of the mathematics faculty with whom the applicant has taken courses.
3. A minimum grade point average of 2.75 (A=4.0) in the most recent 60 semester hours of undergraduate study.
4. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 or higher in all undergraduate coursework in mathematics.

A student who does not satisfy one or more of the above may be provisionally admitted.

Mathematics Course Requirements

The master's degree requires a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours of coursework; a minimum of 24 hours of coursework must be in mathematics, and the hours outside the core are to be selected with the approval of the student's graduate committee. A maximum of six of the nine hours outside the core may be earned by writing a master's thesis. Only students with superior achievement and keen interest in a topic will be encouraged to write a master's thesis. A thesis is not required.

A minimum of 30 credit hours with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required for the granting of the Master of Arts in Mathematics. A language examination is not required. However, students wishing to pursue a doctoral program usually find it necessary to pass a proficiency examination in one or two foreign languages, namely French, German or Russian.

The 30 credit hours are divided as follows:

Required Courses 18

- MATH 661 Topology I
- MATH 671 Abstract Algebra I
- MATH 672 Abstract Algebra II
- MATH 681 Complex Variables I
- MATH 691 Real Variables I
- MATH 698 Seminar

ONE of the following..... 3

- MATH 662 Topology II
- MATH 682 Complex Variables II
- MATH 692 Real Variables II

Mathematics Electives 9

Courses selected with prior adviser approval

All courses are 3 credits unless noted.