

## Combined BA/MA Program in English

### Student Handbook 2022-2023

English majors who are interested in obtaining a Master of Arts in English in conjunction with their Bachelor of Arts can apply to earn both degrees in an accelerated timeframe through the combined BA/MA program. This program allows qualified undergraduate majors to take **graduate-level courses during their senior year (which will be double-counted toward both BA and MA)** and **complete the remaining requirements for the Master's degree during a fifth year of study.**

This program **allows students to move more efficiently through two degrees** and thereby jump-start their professional development. **Graduates from this program will be well prepared** to pursue a PhD in English or a related field; to seek a teaching position at the postsecondary level; or to pursue any number of careers that require sophisticated skills in writing, editing, research, critical thinking and analysis.

#### Admission Criteria for the Combined BA/MA Program

During their junior year (after the completion of 60-90 undergraduate credits), qualified English majors will be informed about the BA/MA program in English and be invited to apply.

To be eligible, these students must have:

- a **cumulative GPA** of at least **3.2**
- a **GPA in the English major** of at least **3.5**
- completed **at least 18 credits of 3000- and 4000-level courses in English** by the end of their junior year, including **ENG 3014** Methods of Literary and Cultural Studies\*

\* It is also strongly recommended that students have completed **ENG 4930** Senior Seminar by the end of their junior year.

Students are **encouraged to apply for admission to the Honors College at the same time** as they apply for admission to the combined BA/MA program. However, these are two separate admissions processes.

#### Admission Requirements and Application

To be admitted to the combined BA/MA program in English, qualified **students must submit all of the following materials** to the English MA Coordinator (except for GRE scores, which should be sent to the Office of Graduate Admissions) by **November 15 for Spring** admission; **April 1 for Summer** admission; or **July 15 for Fall** admission:

- an FGCU transcript
- a minimum score of **153** on the **Verbal Reasoning** portion of the GRE
- a minimum score of **3.5** on the **Analytical Writing** portion of the GRE

- a **writing sample** of 8-10 double-spaced pages of literary analysis, preferably including research
- a **personal statement** of 2-3 double-spaced pages about the career and personal goals connected with pursuing graduate work in English. This statement should explain the applicant's **motivation** for pursuing a Master's degree at FGCU, **goals** connected with pursuing this degree, and the **intended focus** of study at the graduate level.
- the names and email addresses of **two recommenders at FGCU** to support the application.

Students will be informed of their acceptance or denial by **December 1 for Spring** admission; **April 15 for Summer** admission; or **August 1 for Fall** admission. Students who are accepted to the combined BA/MA program **must then meet with the English MA Coordinator within one week of admission** to plan their course of study for the following semester. **Students will not be able to register for graduate-level courses without the permission of the MA Coordinator.**

### **BA/MA Program Requirements**

Students in the combined BA/MA program must maintain strong academic performance in all their coursework. To remain in the BA/MA program, students **must earn a B or higher in each graduate course** taken as an undergraduate student.

**Students who do not receive a B or higher in each graduate course will be dropped** from the BA/MA program, but they can still earn their BA in English once they successfully complete all BA program requirements.

Once a student in the BA/MA program acquires formal **graduate standing** (after completion of the BA in English and successful application to the English MA program), his/her **GPA in graduate courses must meet the specified minimum of 3.0.**

Students in the BA/MA program **can complete up to 12 hours of 6000-level courses** in English **before being admitted into the MA in English program**, including

**ENG 6058** Introduction to Graduate Study in English

For the **remaining 9 credit hours**, students can take courses from the following list:

AML 6506 Studies in Early American Literature (3)  
 AML 6930 ST: US Literature and Culture Pre-1800 (3)  
 ENL 6299 Topics in British Literature Pre-1800 (3)  
 ENL 6305 Major British Authors (3)  
 ENL 6507 British Literature Before 1800 (3)  
 LIT 6062 Comparative Literature Pre-1800 (3)  
 LIT 6146 Studies in World Literature Pre-1800 (3)  
 LIT 6218 Interdisciplinary Literature Pre-1800 (3)

AML 6268 Regional US Literature (3)  
 AML 6507 Studies in Later American Literature (3)  
 AML 6508 ST: American Literature & Culture Post-1800 (3)  
 ENL 6290 Topics in British Literature Post-1800 (3)  
 ENL 6508 British Literature after 1800 (3)  
 LIT 6066 Studies in Comparative Literature Post-1800 (3)  
 LIT 6096 Contemporary Literature (3)  
 LIT 6105 Studies in World Literature Post-1800 (3)  
 LIT 6217 Movements in Literary & Cultural Theory (3)  
 LIT 6406 Interdisciplinary Literature Post-1800 (3)  
 LIT 6436 Environmental Literature (3)  
 LIT 6806 Literature as Cultural Study (3)

ENC 6745 Seminar in Composition Pedagogy (3)  
 ENG 6940 English Master's Internship (0-6)

Students must complete **120 credits for the BA (including 36 credits of required courses and restricted electives in the major)** and **33 credits for the MA**. Students can use **up to 12 hours of free electives within the English BA to take 6000-level English courses** in their senior year, which will count towards completion of the English Master's degree. These 6000-level courses will **also count as Honors courses** for those students enrolled in the Honors College.

However, these 12 credit hours of free electives used to take 6000-level courses **cannot also count as restricted electives required for the English BA**. Students must satisfy all other requirements for the BA in English, including general education courses, common prerequisite courses, required courses in the major, restricted electives in the major, and University Colloquium.

### **Application to the MA Program**

All BA/MA students are responsible for **enrolling in the MA in English within one semester of graduation from the BA program** to ensure continuous enrollment under the current catalog. Students who do not enroll in the MA program within one semester of graduation from the BA program **will be dropped from the combined BA/MA program**. As a result, students will not be able to double-count graduate courses and would then be **required to complete all 33 credit hours to satisfy the English MA requirements**. Students will be admitted into the MA program only if they have fulfilled all of the requirements for admission.

To be admitted to the MA program in English, qualified students must **update the writing sample and personal statement used for their BA/MA application** and submit—to the Office of Graduate Studies—all of the following **by November 15 for Spring** admission; **April 1 for Summer** admission; or **July 15 for Fall** admission:

- an FGCU transcript
- a minimum score of **153** on the **Verbal Reasoning** portion of the GRE
- a minimum score of **3.5** on the **Analytical Writing** portion of the GRE

- a **writing sample** of 8-10 double-spaced pages of literary analysis, preferably including research
- a **personal statement** of 2-3 double-spaced pages about the career and personal goals connected with pursuing graduate work in English. This statement should explain the applicant's **motivation** for pursuing a Master's degree at FGCU, **goals** connected with pursuing this degree, and the **intended focus** of study at the graduate level.
- the names and email addresses of **two recommenders at FGCU** to support the application.

### **Studying for the Master's Degree in English**

Upon acceptance into the MA program, students will be **reclassified as graduate students**. Students will then complete **the remainder of the 33 total graduate credits** required to earn the MA in English, as outlined in the catalog.

Graduate credits completed while an undergraduate and approved by the English MA Coordinator will be **double-counted as part of the 33 required credits** for the MA in English.

Students are encouraged to take **at least 3 credits of ENG 4940 English Internship or ENG 6940 English Master's Internship** as part of their BA/MA coursework.

Students who wish to be **Graduate Teaching Associates** (who teach one or two composition courses per semester as instructor of record) during their fifth year **must take ENC 6745 Composition Pedagogy in the Spring of their senior year**.

In order to apply for a Graduate Teaching Associateship, students must complete **18 graduate credits in English with a 3.3 GPA or higher**, have at least a semester-long experience of working as a **Graduate Teaching Assistant** (who assists a faculty member with a composition course), and pass **ENC 6745 with a grade of B+ or higher**. To have 18 graduate credits, BA/MA students who graduate with a BA in May will need to take **two graduate courses during the summer**.

### **Financial Aid**

**Taking graduate courses as an undergraduate can affect students' financial aid allocations.** Therefore, upon admission to the combined BA/MA program, **students should meet with a financial aid advisor** to review their options. **Ms. Holly Bullock** is the BA/MA contact person: [hbullock@fgcu.edu](mailto:hbullock@fgcu.edu).

If they have not already done so, students should **fill out a FAFSA and an application for Foundation funds**. Both of these applications are available on the Financial Aid website.

BA/MA students can apply for **paid professional-development positions** (such as Editorial Manager for the *Mangrove Review* journal) through the WiSER Eagles program.

Once students are admitted to the English MA program, they can apply for **Graduate Teaching Assistantships** and then **Graduate Teaching Associateships**. Students should visit the English MA website ([www.fgcu.edu/cas/departments/langlit/engma/assistantships](http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/departments/langlit/engma/assistantships)) for more details on these options, or contact the English MA Program Coordinator, **Dr. Masami Sugimori** ([msugimori@fgcu.edu](mailto:msugimori@fgcu.edu)).

Students can also apply for a **Graduate Scholarship** through the Office of Graduate Studies (<https://www.fgcu.edu/admissionsandaid/graduateadmissions/financinggradstudies.aspx>).

### **Contact**

For more information about the combined BA/MA program in English, please contact **Dr. Masami Sugimori**, Coordinator of the English Master's Program.

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