



Admission to Master of Art in English Program

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis; however, submit all materials by the following deadlines to ensure review and evaluation of your application before the beginning of the semester:

<u>To begin in</u>	<u>Submit all materials by</u>
FALL	AUGUST 1
SPRING	DECEMBER 15
SUMMER	MAY 1

Materials should be submitted to the Graduate School. Their contact information is:

The Graduate School

Caspari Hall, Room 123

Natchitoches, LA 71497

318-357-5851

Grad_school@nsula.edu

<https://www.nsula.edu/academics/graduate-school/>

A complete application file for certificate programs in TESOL or Writing for Business, Industry and Technology requires:

- Admission to the Graduate School
 - The [online application for admission](#)
 - Receipt of official college transcripts
 - Receipt of completed Request for Waiver of GRE

A complete application file for the English MA program requires:

- Admission to the Graduate School
 - The [online application for admission](#)
 - Receipt of official college transcripts
 - Receipt of [immunization records](#)¹
 - Receipt of official GRE scores²
 - Receipt of 2 letters of recommendation
 - Receipt of \$25 Application Fee
- a writing sample of not more than 15 pages demonstrating facility in analysis, argument, research, and coherence emailed to grad_school@nsula.edu AND englishgrad@nsula.edu;
- a statement of purpose of about 500 words describing career goals and/or rationale for pursuing graduate study in English. This statement should demonstrate a substantial commitment to graduate study. **Email to grad_school@nsula.edu AND englishgrad@nsula.edu.**

Successful applicants to the MA program in English will meet the following criteria, in addition to the admission requirements established by the Graduate School:

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher; and
- A minimum score of 3.5 on the analytical writing section of the GRE or 150 on the verbal section of the GRE, **and**
- a lucid and engaging writing sample of not more than 15 pages demonstrating facility in analysis, argument, research, and coherence;

¹ Can be waived for online-only students.

² Can be waived for applicants who already have completed a MA degree. Submission of transcripts from previous MA program is required.

- a statement of purpose of about 500 words describing career goals and/or rationale for pursuing graduate study in English that demonstrates a substantial commitment to graduate study.
- Two letters of recommendation from people who have supervised the applicant in an academic or similar setting and speak to the applicants' potential for success in graduate studies.

The M.A. program in English allows for **conditional admission** only under the following circumstances:

- Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.5; and
- all other requirements shown in the *Successful applicants* section (see above).

At the end of the first semester in the M.A. in English program, conditional status students are required to apply to our graduate faculty to request full graduate admission status. NOTE: Conditional graduate students may not take dept. courses in their second term until full graduate status is granted.

International applicants

The Graduate School requires TOEFL scores for international applicants; the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies will consider an IELTS score of 6.0 in lieu of the TOEFL.

TRANSFER CREDITS

A maximum of nine (9) credit hours with grades of at least B (3.0) may be transferred into the master's program upon admission. Courses taken concurrently (while pursuing the MA at NSU) will not be approved for transfer credit. Transfer credits must be for courses deemed equivalent to courses required for the NSU MA program curriculum. Transfer credits must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and signed by the Department Head and Dean. A request to approve transfer credits form is available here: <https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/graduate-school-forms-pdf-files/>.

COURSE LOAD LIMITATIONS

Students with full academic eligibility status may take between 3 and 9 hours per semester. Approval must be obtained for a course load of 12 credit hours in a single term from the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head.

TUITION AND FEES

Graduate tuition and student fees are listed in the Northwestern State University Semester Class Schedule (Fall, Spring, Summer) and at <http://businessaffairs.nsula.edu/tuition-and-fees/>. These fees are subject to change without notice. All fees and charges assessed by the University in connection with registration are due in full on scheduled fee payment dates. Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have questions about tuition and fees.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching and research assistantships are available for highly qualified graduate students on our Natchitoches campus. To be eligible for a graduate assistantship, the student must be accepted into the Master's degree program and have achieved regular graduate admission status at Northwestern State University. Eligible students must apply for a Graduate Assistantship. A graduate assistant must be full-time (at least 9 hours) of which 6 must be graduate, and no more than 12 (graduate/undergraduate) hours total. To be eligible to retain the assistantship, the student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all graduate courses, as well as meet all other stated requirements of the graduate school. Graduate assistants are required to work 20 hours a week. Those granted a graduate assistantship will receive a stipend over a nine-month period. Out-of-state tuition is waived, if applicable, but this is only in effect for those semesters the student is actually employed as a graduate assistant. Additional information and an application are available from the Graduate School office.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Graduate School at the info listed above, or contact the Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English, Dr. J. Ereck Jarvis, jarvisj@nsula.edu.