

Master of Arts in English



The WIU Department of English offers graduate-level education in all areas of English studies. Our graduates pursue information-intensive careers in business and education, including those demanding intensive writing and editing, as well as secondary or community college teaching in composition or literature. Many students also complete further graduate study in the humanities.

Program Overview

The Western Illinois University Department of English offers graduate-level study in literature, writing and cultural studies.

Students take courses in traditional and emerging literatures, professional writing and editing, composition, new media, film and popular culture. Through course work, students define their interests, learn powerful research methodologies and develop their intellectual and scholarly identities.

Students in the graduate program in English collaborate with our graduate faculty to develop individualized plans of study that suit their scholarly and professional goals. We actively help students with financial support and professional development.

In the final “exit-option sequence,” students work under the direction of a faculty committee to develop, complete and defend an ambitious project that makes a significant, intellectual contribution. Students can choose one of three exit-option projects to complete the program:

- **Thesis:** 40-60 pages of original scholarly writing.
- **Directed Readings and Exam:** Reading extensively in primary and secondary texts to master a particular field.
- **Applied Project:** A significant and ambitious project, often tied to an internship in a professional setting.

Many students also earn credits with internships in teaching, professional writing, library science and other fields, gaining hands-on experience and making valuable professional connections.

Why Choose English at WIU?

- We emphasize individual, one-on-one mentorship by faculty with national reputations in their fields.
- Our students define the problems they want to work on, develop the knowledge and methodology necessary to address them and establish their scholarly identities through intellectually transformative final projects.
- Flexible full-time or part-time options are available to complete the program.
- A rich department culture of conferences, colloquiums, roundtables and talks by nationally-recognized scholars and creative writers.
- Faculty have extensive experience mentoring secondary education teachers to successful completion of their graduate degrees.
- Competitive funding packages are available, with tuition waivers and living stipends for full-time students.
- Our graduates find success in information-intensive careers in business, especially those demanding intensive writing, editing and sophisticated literacies.
- The M.A. qualifies our graduates to teach English at community colleges.
- We prepare our students for success in Ph.D. programs, and we have an exceptional record of funded placements in prestigious programs nationwide.
- Recent graduates are working as professional writers in Chicago, Denver and other major cities. Many are teaching at community colleges across the nation. Others have accepted assistantships at top doctoral programs including the University of Notre Dame, the University of California Riverside, SUNY Buffalo, the University of Minnesota and Saint Louis University.

Program Location:
Macomb, Quad Cities

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

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English

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General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

Higher Values in Higher Education

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility



**WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY**

Our Faculty

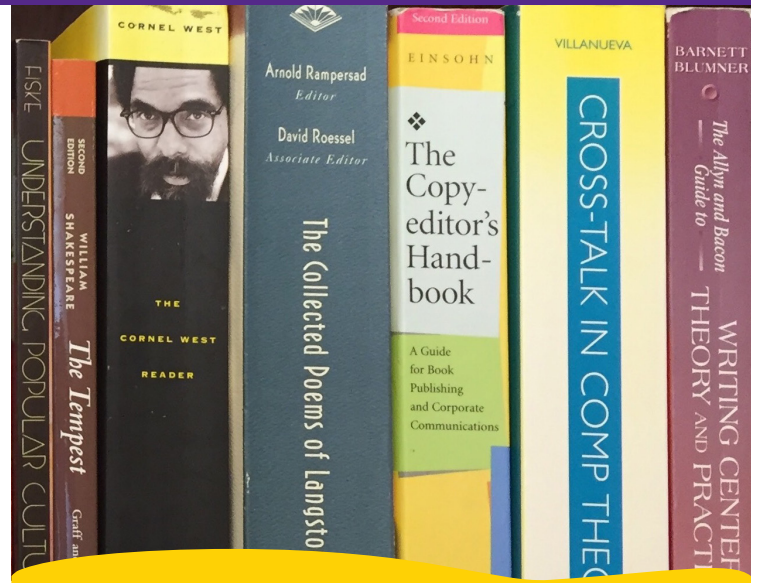
The English graduate faculty offer cutting-edge courses in every area of English studies and publish innovative scholarship in both traditional and emerging fields. All English graduate faculty members have doctoral degrees from competitive programs at accredited institutions, and all are recognized experts in their fields.

Selected Recent Articles by English Graduate Faculty

- Marjorie C. Allison, "(Not) Lost in the Margins: Gender and Identity in Graphic Texts," *Mosaic*, 2014.
- Rebekah Buchanan, "A Punk Pedagogical Approach to Genre," *Recontextualized: A Framework for Teaching English with Music*, 2017.
- Jose Fernandez, "Economic Reciprocity and Darwinian Evolution in Theodore Dreiser's *The Financier*," *Journal of The Midwest Modern Language Association*, 2013.
- Everett Hamner, "Virtual Immigrants: Transfigured Bodies and Transnational Spaces in Science Fiction Cinema," *Simultaneous Worlds: Global Science Fiction Cinema*, 2015.
- Timothy Helwig, "Melville's Liminal Bachelor and the Making of Middle-Class Manhood in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*," *American Periodicals: A Journal Of History, Criticism, and Bibliography*, 2014.
- Magdelyn Helwig, "Robert Schultz and Binh Danh's 'War Memoranda: Photography, Walt Whitman, and Renewal,'" *Walt Whitman Quarterly*, 2016.
- Christopher Morrow, "Acknowledgment, Adaptation and Shakespeare in Ron Rash's *Serena*," *South Central Review*, 2013.
- Amy Patrick Mossman, "V Is for Voice: Engaging Student Interest, Sustaining Student Thinking and Writing in Today's Writing Classrooms with Fountainhead Press's V Series," *Composition Forum*, 2012.
- Shazia Rahman, "Cosmopolitanism, Internationalization and Orientalism: Bharati Mukherjee's Peritexts," *Journal Of Postcolonial Writing*, 2013.
- Margaret Sinex, "'Tricksy Lights': Literary and Folkloric Elements in Tolkien's Passage of the Dead Marshes," *Tolkien Studies*, 2005.
- Alisha M. White and Michelle Zoss, "Finding 'My Kind of Teaching': How a Drama Project Became a Teacher's Expressive Teaching Moment," *English in Education*, 2011.

Books by English Graduate Faculty

- David Banash, *Collage Culture: Readymades, Meaning, and the Age of Consumption* (Rodopi 2013).
- Merrill Cole, *The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality* (Routledge 2003).
- Roberta Di Carmine, *Italy Meets Africa. Colonial Discourses in Italian Cinema* (Peter Lang 2012).
- Daniel Malachuk, *Perfection, the State, and Victorian Liberalism* (Palgrave 2005).
- Mark Mossman, *Disability, Representation and the Body in Irish Writing, 1800-1922* (Palgrave 2009).
- Patricia Young, *African American Women Playwrights Confront Violence: A Critical Study of Nine Dramatists* (McFarland 2012).



Opportunities for Our Students

In the English graduate program, students have opportunities to develop their intellectual interests well beyond the classroom.

- Present at local and regional conferences. In just the past year, students have traveled to present their work at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in California; Craft, Critique, Culture Conference in Iowa; and the Sigma Tau Delta conference in Louisville, KY.
- Compete for funding to travel for research. Through the Mahony Award, recent students have traveled to archives at Yale University, researched Byron in Ireland, and secured funds to travel to conduct interviews throughout the U.S.
- Full-time students can compete for teaching assistantships that include tuition waivers and living stipends.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Our graduate students participate in the English Graduate Organization (EGO). They plan the annual EGO Conference, inviting other graduate students and faculty from around the country, to present papers with them on exciting and emerging fields of study. Additionally, EGO students organize roundtables, talks, plan local picnics, softball games and more.

Student Success

Recent graduates have made careers in copywriting, editing, technical writing and public relations. Many of our graduates also teach writing in community colleges, or teach English overseas. Students have also gone on to further graduate study in prestigious schools around the country, including programs leading to the Masters of Library Science and the Ph.D. in English Studies. Visit our web site for student profiles and other information: wiu.edu/cas/english.

"Professors are adamant about challenging students to work outside of the familiar, to stand on original thought, and their passion is infectious. When I finished school, it was the work ethic and intellectual curiosity I gained in the program that allowed me to move to Chicago and 'live the dream' as a professional writer. The people you meet at WIU will shape your story well beyond graduation."

— Cody Cunningham, M.A. 2016, Senior Copywriter at JLL Commercial Real Estate, Chicago