

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://english.cornell.edu/phd-program-english-language-and-literature/>)

CIP: 23.0101 | HEGIS: 1502.00 | NYSED: 13396

## Graduate Field

English Language and Literature (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/english-language-literature/>)

## Program Description

The doctoral program in English Language and Literature enrolls about 10 new students each year in the Ph.D. program. Our small size allows us to offer a generous financial support package, details of which are outlined on our department website. At the same time, we have a large and diverse graduate faculty with competence in a wide range of literary, theoretical, and cultural fields. Students choose a Special Committee of three faculty members, from whom they receive a great deal of individual attention. Working with this committee, students design their own courses of study within the very broad framework laid down by the department. The program is extremely flexible in regard to such matters as course selection, the design of examinations, and the election of minor subjects of concentration outside the department. English Ph.D. students pursuing interdisciplinary research may include on their Special Committees faculty members from related fields such as Comparative Literature, Romance Studies, German Studies, History, Classics, Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Linguistics, Performing and Media Arts, Government, and Philosophy.

The Ph.D. candidate is normally expected to complete six or seven one-semester courses for credit in the first year of residence and a total of six or seven more in the second and third years. The program of any doctoral candidate's formal and informal study, whatever his or her particular interests, should be comprehensive enough to ensure familiarity with the authors and works that have been the most influential in determining the course of literatures in English; the theory and criticism of literature; the relations between literature and other disciplines; and concerns and tools of literary and cultural history such as textual criticism, study of genre, source, and influence, as well as wider issues of cultural production and historical and social contexts that bear on literature.

**The Special Committee:** Every student selects a Special Committee of three faculty who will be responsible for providing the student with a great deal of individual attention. The University system of Special Committees allows students to design their own courses of study within a broad framework laid down by the department, and it encourages a close working relationship between professors and students, promoting freedom and flexibility in the pursuit of the graduate degree. The student's Special Committee guides and supervises all academic work and assesses progress at a series of meetings with the student.

**Teaching:** Teaching is considered an integral part of training for the profession. The Field requires a carefully supervised teaching experience of at least one year for every doctoral and master's candidate as part of the training for the degree. The Department of Literatures in English, in conjunction with the John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines

(<https://knight.as.cornell.edu/>), offers excellent training for beginning teachers and varied and interesting teaching within the university-wide First-Year Writing Program. Graduate students are assigned to writing courses under such general rubrics as "Writing Across Cultures," "American Voices," "Word and Image," "Reading Now," and "Writing the Environment," among others. Serving as a Teaching Assistant for a lecture course taught by a member of the Department of Literatures in English faculty is another way graduate students participate in the teaching of undergraduates.

## Concentrations

- African American literature
- American literature after 1865
- American literature to 1865
- American studies
- Colonial and postcolonial literatures
- Cultural studies
- Dramatic literature
- English poetry
- Lesbian, bisexual, and gay literary studies
- Literary criticism and theory
- Old and Middle English
- Prose fiction
- The English Renaissance to 1660
- The nineteenth century
- The Restoration and the eighteenth century
- The twentieth century
- Women's literature

## Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 160

## Program Requirements

- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 8

## Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: First Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Spring of third year
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Summer of sixth year

## Field Specific Milestones

- Field progress review conducted every year
- Two semesters of teaching assistantship required

## Course Requirements

Additional course requirements may be set by the student's Special Committee. Program specific requirements that apply to all students are included below.

### Year 1 (Fall)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research
- ENGL 6000 Colloquium for Entering Students
- Three Graduate level courses

### Year 1 (Spring)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research
- Three Graduate level courses

### Year 2 (Fall)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research
- Two Graduate level courses

### Year 2 (Spring)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research
- Two Graduate level courses

### Year 3 (Fall)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research
- Two Graduate level courses

### Year 3 (Spring)

- GRAD 9010 Graduate-Level Research

### All Subsequent Terms

- GRAD 9011 Doctoral Dissertation Research

### Prior to A Exam

- WRIT 7100 Teaching Writing
- 12 Graduate level courses

## University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

### Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

### Non-academic Requirements

**Conduct Matters.** Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

**Financial Obligations.** Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold

issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

### Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of one major concentration in the field, and competency in one or two other minor areas of concentration, and/or interdisciplinary affiliations
- Demonstrate advanced research skills, including broad knowledge of a range of critical and theoretical approaches relevant to their field of research
- Make an original and substantial contribution to the field, and produce publishable scholarship in a timely fashion
- Communicate research findings effectively in written and spoken presentations
- Follow ethical guidelines for work in the field
- Demonstrate effective skills in undergraduate teaching and potential for graduate teaching