



Colorado State University

Department of English Graduate Handbook

M.F.A. in Creative Writing

M.A. in Communication Development

M.A. in English Education

M.A. in Literature

M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition

M.A. in Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language

Joint M.A. Degrees in English (TEFL/TESL) and Foreign
Languages and Literatures

Peace Corps International Masters Degree with a
Concentration in TESL/TEFL

Certificate in TESL/TEFL

Certificate in Women's Studies

Portfolio Option in Non-Fiction

Preface

This handbook is designed to help you get acquainted with the Graduate Programs in English at Colorado State University. It offers general information about the programs, policies and procedures, and provides some examples of student projects. While this handbook strives to be thorough, you may still have questions regarding our program. If so, please direct your correspondence to Graduate Coordinator, Department of English, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1773, direct your phone calls to (970) 491-2403, and direct email messages to Stephani.besser@colostate.edu.

The most recent version of this document can be found on the Web at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/English/programs/grad_handbook.pdf.

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Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative employer and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding affirmative action requirements in all programs. The Office of Equal Opportunity is located in 101 Student Services. In order to assist Colorado State University in meeting its affirmative action responsibilities, ethnic minorities, women and other protected class members are encouraged to apply and to so identify themselves.

Cover photo by Mike Palmquist.

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Admission Process

Completing the Application

Ideally, applications should be submitted six months before the term in which you wish to enroll, although applicants in most programs may be admitted up to the beginning of any given semester. The Creative Writing Program admits new students only for the fall semester-- Application deadline: January 15. GTA applications are considered only in the spring for the fall semester. The deadline for GTA applications is January 15.

Please follow these steps to apply:

1. Review the Department's graduate programs to determine which program best fits your needs. If you need more information, contact the Department's Graduate Program Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Besser, at 970 491 2403 or stephanie.besser@colostate.edu.
2. Complete the [Graduate School Electronic Application Form](#) and submit your registration fee.
3. Send additional materials to:

Department of English
Attn: Stephanie Besser
Eddy 359
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1773

Materials should include:

- Two official transcripts from each college or university you have attended
- Three or more letters of recommendation from instructors or employers
- A statement of purpose--your goals for graduate school
- A writing sample pertinent to your program (see Creative Writing section for special requirements for that program)
- Scores from the general exam of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required for students seeking admission to the literature program; GRE scores are not required for admission to the MFA in Creative Writing or to any of the other MA programs unless they have earned an undergraduate GPA of less than 3.0. Students with an undergraduate GPA of less than 3.0 seeking admission to any graduate degree program are required to submit scores from the GRE general exam. Students who are planning to go on for a Ph.D. or who wish to make their record as competitive as possible are encouraged to take the GRE general exam. In all cases, GRE scores will be seen in the context of the rest of a student's record.
- If you are a non-native speaker of English, a TOEFL score of 550 or higher and TWE results (official copy required).

Please note: The application for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship is available in [Portable](#)

[Document Format.](#)

Criteria for Admission

The [Graduate School](#) and English Department base admission on the following:

- Your complete application and accompanying information
- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent, with a minimum average of 3.00 (A = 4.00). If your average is below 3.00, you will be considered for conditional admission if sufficient evidence indicates that you can perform well in a graduate program.
- Relevant experience and/or your statement of purpose.
- The quality of your writing sample.
- Letters of recommendation.

Depending on your background, you may be required to take some courses in addition to the regular program. Recommended backgrounds for Department programs are:

Program	Recommended Background
Literature	Major in English or equivalent background
Communication Development Creative Writing Rhetoric and Composition TEFL/TESL	Majors in English, foreign languages, linguistics, speech, journalism, anthropology, and other fields. If you are a native speaker of English interested in the TEFL/TESL program, you should have experience with a foreign language or culture prior to admission.
Teaching	Major in English and teacher certification obtained before admission to the program or while working toward the M.A. degree. Certification credits cannot be counted toward the degree.

You will need to return your acceptance form to the Graduate School. With your acceptance notice, you will also receive information regarding student housing at Colorado State. Return this form as soon as possible because housing is offered on a first-come first-served basis. If you wish to live off campus, you should contact [Off Campus Student Services](#) in the Lory Student Center, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, 970-491-2248.

Becoming a Graduate Teaching Assistant

In any given year, between 15 and 25 graduate students in the Department are awarded Graduate Teaching Assistants. The positions may be awarded to incoming students for two (MA) or three years (MFA) and to continuing students for one (MA) or two years (MFA). These positions pay a monthly stipend and cover resident or non-resident tuition for first-year GTAs and resident tuition for second- and third-year GTAs. (It is assumed that first-year graduate students who are awarded GTA positions will establish Colorado residency by the beginning of their second year in the program.) Typically, students awarded GTAs serve as instructors in lower-division composition, creative writing, or literature courses. In some cases, they serve as research assistants or administrative assistants.

Students considering applying for a GTA should complete their applications by January 15th. The Department strongly recommends that students discuss the application process with the Graduate Program Administrative Assistant. If possible, we also recommend that students talk with faculty advisors about the application process.

For students already enrolled in the program, an orientation session about applying for a GTA position is usually conducted in November.

Students interested in applying for a position as a Graduate Teaching Assistant should obtain a copy of the GTA Application form (available in [Portable Document Format](#)).

Program Descriptions

The Department of English offers programs of study leading to the master of Fine Arts (M.F.A) and the Master of Arts (M.A.). The M.F.A is awarded for a program of study in [Creative Writing](#). Five Programs of study offer the M.A.: [Communication Development](#), [Literature, Rhetoric and Composition](#), [Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language \(TEFL/TESL\)](#), and [Teaching English in Secondary Schools](#). The joint program in English (TEFL/TESL) and Foreign Languages leads to double M.A. degrees. A certificate in TESL/TEFL, a certificate in Women's Studies, and a portfolio option in nonfiction are available to all students.

M.F.A. in Creative Writing

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is for students who have already demonstrated ability in the writing of fiction and poetry. The program offers a balance of intimate and intensive writing workshops with courses in literature, form and technique, and such related electives as creative nonfiction writing and translation. Course work culminates in a thesis--a collection of poetry or short stories or a novel--and a [portfolio](#) documenting a student's range of activities (see below).

Applicants to the program should request our application packet; contact information is available on the [application page](#). Though GPA and GRE scores are considered, we pay the closest attention to your writing sample: 12-20 pages of poems for poets, or two short stories or a chapter or two of a novel in-progress for fiction writers. The application deadline is January 15.

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis, as are assistantships for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Director of Creative Writing. Students with Teaching Assistantships or Colorado Fellowships usually complete the MFA in three years; those who don't need financial aid can finish in two. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Requirements for the Degree

- Completion of 48 semester credits including 12 credits of thesis work
- Completion of the required core courses (see below)
- Completion of portfolio--[See portfolio information.](#)
- Completion of thesis and oral defense--[See thesis information.](#)

Core Courses

- [E513 Form & Technique in Modern Literature: Fiction or Poetry](#) (3 credits)
- [E640 Graduate Writing Workshop: Fiction or Poetry](#) (12 credits)
- One course (300-level or above) outside the English Department (unless your bachelor's degree was not in English (3 credits)
- [E699 Thesis](#) (12 credits)
- International requirement--See [International requirement information.](#) (3 credits)
- Pre-20th Century E500+ literature course (3 credits)

Portfolio Requirement

The portfolio is designed to allow for an accurate and thorough assessment of a student's progress in the program, while granting a student maximum time for writing and study. Here are its elements:

1. A sample critical paper from a literature course.
2. A sample paper from a craft course (Form and Technique, Narrative Voice, The Short Story, etc.).
3. A sample of your creative work: one story or a group of poems culled from the thesis.
2. A self-assessment of your teaching, internship, or service while in the program. The self-evaluation should discuss how any (or all) of the positions above helped you to become a better writer and critical thinker. You may also include a supervisor's evaluation of your teaching or internship.
3. An annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography would include a minimum of 50 works, 20 of which must be full-length books. The rest of the works can be made up of short stories, poems, creative nonfiction, critical articles, and other primary and secondary sources. The works must be in addition to your required course readings and should represent a selection that has contributed to your intellectual growth as a writer, editor, and critic. Entries should be dated. (Attached are instructions for accessing a CSU software program to start and add to an ongoing bibliography.)

The portfolio will be evaluated in a student's final semester—a prerequisite to the oral defense—by the two creative writing members of a student's thesis committee.

Thesis Information

A student may take the oral exam (thesis defense) only after successful completion of the portfolio requirement, all course work, and program requirements (pre-20th Century course, foreign language or *international course requirement).

Theses may be evaluated as inadequate by a student's thesis committee and permission will not be given for the oral examination until a thesis revision is accepted by all members of the candidate's committee in writing. The thesis will be prefaced by a "abstract" which is a brief discussion of the aesthetics behind the writer's work. Once the full committee approves thesis and abstract, the student will take an hour-long oral defense of his/her thesis.

Poetry Thesis: A poetry thesis is defined as a book-length collection of poetry. Therefore, a thesis will have the number of pages and the quality of work that make publication a possibility, at least 48 single-spaced pages and no more than 84 pages.

Fiction Thesis: A fiction thesis is defined as a book-length collection of stories or a novel. Therefore, a thesis will have the number of pages and the quality of work that make publication a possibility, at least 8 short stories or no less than 100 pages, double-spaced.

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the **Thesis Manual** from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

Internship Opportunities in Creative Writing

We offer a variety of for-credit [internships](#) (some paid) in such areas as college teaching, public education, arts administration in literature, and literary editing (including the Center for Literary Publishing, the [Colorado Review](#), the [Freestone](#), the Department's Alumni Magazine, and the

[Nieve Roja Review](#), CSU's on-line literary journal). A paid internship as editor of the [Greyrock Review](#), a literary magazine staffed by CSU undergraduates, is also available. Though students may take as many internship credits as they like, only six credits in E687 Internship or E684 Supervised College Teaching can be counted towards their 48-hour degree.

MFA candidates can also take a course in [Teaching College Creative Writing](#), which allows them to teach [Introduction to Creative Writing](#).

For information about course offerings and registration procedures for the upcoming semester or summer session, please view the [Rambler](#), the Department's student newsletter.

M.A. in Communication Development

Most people drawn to English studies as students or teachers read and write for a variety of audiences and goals---entertainment, analysis, argument. What first draws us to English studies might be the beauty of figurative language, the utility of informative language, the persuasiveness of argumentative language. Students who are drawn to serious study of English see a multiplicity of theoretical approaches that seek to explain the power of language---informative, creative, analytic, or persuasive--in shaping our thinking and our lives.

When students choose to pursue graduate studies in Communication Development, they bring with them a wide range of practical experiences with language as well as an assortment of theoretical perspectives informing their reading and writing. Regardless of their specific, long-term professional goals, students come to the program to learn more about communicating through texts. Whether they are interested in writing literary essays or hypertext grant proposals, whether they plan to become teachers in writing or literacy programs, whether they expect to edit corporate newsletters or World Wide Web sites, they need to understand the complex relationships among texts, readers, and writers.

The Communication Development program develops critically informed views of what textual communication is, how it works and how writers engage in it. The Current Perspectives courses in the CD program--E501, E522, and E615--assure that students examine three key perspectives on language--writing theory, semantic/pragmatic theory, and critical theories. These perspectives give students common ground from which to examine theoretical and practical concepts presented in other CD courses. Perhaps even more important, studying language through the three perspectives also gives them flexibility in understanding the range of theoretical perspectives they are likely to encounter in professional settings beyond the master's degree. E501 focuses on writers as it looks carefully at theories of meaning-making applied to written discourse production. E522 concentrates on discourse as it examines semantic and pragmatic dimensions of meaning as well as discourse analysis. E615 focuses on the production and circulation of meanings within language/culture by studying the critical theories that address such issues. By presenting students with these approaches to readers, writers, and texts, the Current Perspectives courses combine to allow students to pursue specific theoretical and practical extensions as they wish.

The M.A. in Communication Development is an interdepartmental program involving English, Speech Communication, and Journalism and Technical Communication, and students are encouraged to do relevant course work in other departments. For some courses outside the Department, you will need to fulfill prerequisites or secure the instructor's permission. Apply by January 15 if you want to be considered for any University fellowship.

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Requirements for the Degree

§ Completion of Plan A (36 semester credits, including a maximum of six credits of thesis)

or Plan B (36 semester credits, including 2 credits of independent study)

§ Completion of the required core courses listed below

§ Completion of a colloquium presentation (see your advisor for details)

§ Oral defense of thesis or independent study project

See also ACredits that Count,@ p. 27.

Most students complete their degrees in 2 years (four to five semesters of course work).

Core Courses

- [E501 Theories of Writing](#)
- [E522 Linguistic Semantics, Pragmatics and Discourse](#)
- [E600 Research Methods and Theory or another approved research methods course](#)
- [E615 Reading Literature: Recent Theories](#) or SP623 Contemporary Theories of Discourse
- [E687 Internship](#)
- [E691 Colloquium](#)
- [E695 Independent Study Project](#) or [E699 Thesis](#)

Internship Requirement: Communication Development

Increasingly, graduate students in English are opting for careers in non-academic environments, such as arts and nonprofit administration, publishing, public relations, marketing, and professional and technical writing. The English Department, along with the University Career Center and the College of Liberal Arts, is committed to helping students prepare themselves for a variety of career options.

Internships are valuable to the growth of Communication Development students for the same reasons they are valuable to graduate students in our other programs:

- To help students select careers by exposing them to real, on-the-job responsibilities and environments;
- To help students select the kind of organization they would like to work for by exposing them to the inner workings of an organization.
- To provide formal training and mentoring;
- To give students opportunities to apply what they have learned in the classroom;
- To improve work skills with on-the-job training and experience;
- To create job opportunities either directly (with the host company hiring a student after the completion of an Internship) or indirectly (with the host company offering networking opportunities and potential recommendation).

Because the CD program focuses so much on the production of texts, it provides students with

practice in working with texts in genres/contexts not typically covered in literature or M.F.A. courses. In addition, to enter a competitive job market after graduation, students need to have built healthy portfolios and resumes while in school.

Thesis Information

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the **Thesis Manual** from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

M.A. in English Education

In this program, you gain both theoretical and practical knowledge of English language arts. The program offers courses in literature, writing, pedagogy and the application of computers to the teaching of writing. English Licensure is required before the degree is conferred. Apply by January 15 if you want to be considered for any University fellowship.

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Requirements for Degree

- Completion of Plan A (32 semester credits, including a maximum of six credits of thesis) or Plan B (35 semester credits, including two credits of independent study)
- Completion of required core courses listed below
- Completion of a written comprehensive exam -- [See sample exam information.](#)
- Oral defense of your thesis or independent study project
- Teaching certificate

Most students complete their degrees in 2 years (four to five semesters of course work) if they have a teaching license. Students without a license should plan on an extra two to four semesters, depending on their background. A maximum of 9 credits for Plan A or 12 credits for Plan B may be taken outside the English Department.

Core Courses

- [E402 Teaching Composition](#)
- E600 Research Methods and Theory: Students may take either the [Literature](#) or [Communication Development](#) section
- [E632 Professional Concerns in English](#): topics vary from semester to semester
- [E695 Independent Study Project](#) or [E699 Thesis](#)

Thesis Information

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the [Thesis Manual](#) from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

M.A. in Literature

In addition to offering courses in the traditional genres, eras, topics, and authors, the literature program encourages the reexamination of traditional literary canons and approaches. The program aims to be flexible, allowing you to combine the study of literature (American, British, Continental, Native American, Asian) with, for example, recent literary and composition theory, computer-assisted instruction, linguistics, folklore and mythology or even ecology. Acceptance into this program requires a bachelor's degree in English or a broad knowledge of English and American literature. Apply by January 15 if you want to be considered for any University fellowship. Fellowship information is available at <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=funding>.

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Requirements for the Degree

- Completion of Plan A (32 semester credits, including a maximum of six credits of thesis) or Plan B (35 semester credits, including 2 credits of independent study).
- Completion of required core courses listed below
- Completion of a written comprehensive exam -- [See sample exam information](#).
- Oral defense of thesis or independent study project
- Reading knowledge of a foreign language.
- Most students complete their degrees in two years (four to five semesters of course work).

Core Courses

- [E615 Reading Literature – Recent Theories](#): reading and discussion of recent developments in theories of discourse (recommended for your first year)
- [E600 Research Methods and Theory](#): Materials and methods of literary scholarship: bibliography, documentation, textual criticism, editing, and literary criticism (recommended for your second year)
- [E695 Independent Study Project](#)
or
- [E699 Thesis](#)

Thesis Information

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the [Thesis Manual](#) from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or

<http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

Foreign Language Requirement

Literature students must have reading competency in a foreign language. The language requirement may be met in several ways:

- By taking formal language courses as an undergraduate student. If your grades averaged "B" or better for two years of such courses, you may use them to meet this requirement if the courses were taken no more than three years before admission.
- By earning a grade of "B" or better in L120 at Colorado State. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers L120 in French, German, and Spanish. Check with the Foreign Language Department for current scheduling of L120 courses.
- By petitioning to transfer work completed at another institution. These petitions will be evaluated by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- By demonstrating the appropriate level of competence using procedures developed by the Foreign Languages and Literatures department.
- By completing an acceptable translation. If you choose this option, you must have sufficient language skills at the beginning of the project to complete it with independent work. You will arrange for a faculty supervisor for the project and a native speaker consultant. Then you will submit a brief preliminary sample to that advisor on the departmental form. The text to be translated should be one that has never been translated before or that has been translated inadequately (as determined by the faculty supervisor). Ordinarily, translation projects will run between ten and thirty pages, depending on the difficulty of the text. The faculty supervisor will rate the completed translation as acceptable or not acceptable. No graduate credit is available for translation projects used to meet the foreign language requirement, although more substantial projects may become independent studies projects or theses.

M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition

The M.A. in English with a specialization in rhetoric and composition allows students to pursue the study of writing and writing instruction, including:

- the theory and practice of writing and writing instruction
- the roles writing plays in public and private contexts
- the composing processes used by writers in varying contexts and for particular purposes
- the social, cultural, and historical forces shaping writing and writing instruction
- the impact of technology on writing and writing instruction

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Requirements for the Degree

- Completion of Plan A (32 semester credits, including a maximum of six credits of thesis) or Plan B (34 semester credits, including two credits of independent study)
- Completion of the required core courses listed below
- Completion of the Rhetoric and composition Colloquium
- Oral defense of a thesis or independent study project

Course of Study

- [E501 Theories of Writing](#)
- [E600 Research Methods and Theory or another approved research methods course](#)
- One additional course in writing theory (select from focused area of study list below)
- One course in historical backgrounds of writing (select from the following: Histories of Writing Theory; SP503: Transformations in Rhetorical Theory, or SP601: Ancient and Medieval Rhetoric)
- Three courses in a focused area of study (see below), selected in consultation with the advisor.
- [E692 Colloquium](#) (taken in successive spring semesters for a total of 2 semester credits)
- [E695 Independent Study Project](#) or [E699 Thesis](#)

Focused Area of Study

Students will take at least three courses (nine semester credits) in a focused area of study. Students will work with their advisor to define their focused area of study and to determine appropriate coursework. The theory and history courses may be included in the focused area of

study. Typical areas of study include:

- The Teaching of Writing
- Theories of Writing
- Literacy Studies
- Discourse Processes
- Technology and Writing
- Composition Administration and Curriculum Development

Thesis Information

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the **Thesis Manual** from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

M.A. in Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language

The M.A. program in TESL/TEFL provides graduates with practical, theoretical, and critical knowledge of methods for teaching the English language in various social and academic settings. The program features an integrated core in which a comprehensive understanding of the form and communicative functions of the English language is combined with both general and skill-specific (reading, writing, listening, speaking) pedagogical theories and applications. These courses are designed to promote reflective inquiry, to provide students with the necessary tools for ongoing professional growth, to serve as models of effective pedagogy, and to introduce students to the various ways in which instruction can be enhanced by contemporary technologies. The connection of theory and practice is enhanced through a variety of supervised teaching experiences. A [portfolio](#), thesis or major paper completes the degree requirements.

The M.A. in TEFL/TESL is a professional degree designed to enable graduates to teach English as a foreign or second language, evaluate the relative utility and validity of diverse teaching methodologies and testing procedures, adapt and/or develop materials for unique teaching/learning situations, evaluate recent EFL/ESL research and its relevance to EFL/ESL teaching and learning, and assist in the supervision of classroom teachers and in the administration of EFL/ESL programs. The program integrates pedagogy, linguistics, and classroom teaching. The program prepares graduates for TESL/TEFL teaching in the U.S. and abroad, as well as for advanced studies in applied linguistics. An ESL endorsement is available for those having or seeking a Colorado teaching license.

To complete the M.A., students must earn a minimum of 35 semester credits and must pass an oral defense of their portfolio, thesis, or major paper. Apply by January 15 if you want to be considered for any University fellowship. Please note: Non-native speakers **MUST** have a TOEFL score of 550 or higher and TWE results must be submitted (official copy required) to be considered for admission.

Requirements for Degree

Elective courses of 13 to 17 credits will be chosen related to the student's professional goals. 14-17 on checklist

A 16-19-credit core of studies is required, as follows:

Core Courses

- [E514 Phonology/Morphology for ESL/EFL](#)
- [E515 Syntax for ESL/EFL](#)
- [E526 Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language](#)
- [E527 Theories of Foreign/Second Language Learning](#)
- [E684 Practicum \(2-3 credits\)](#) E684BV
- [E687 Internship \(2-4 credits\)](#) E687HV

Other Requirements

Plan A

- Core Studies (16-19 credits)
- Electives (13-16 credits)
- [E699 Thesis](#) (3 credits)

Plan B

- Core Studies (16-19 credits)
- Electives (14-17 credits)
- [E695 Independent Study](#) (can be a [portfolio](#); 2 credits)

Native speakers of English should have experience with a foreign language or culture before admission. Non-native speakers of English must achieve a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) or higher before admission.

In addition to course requirements outlined here, students must pass an oral defense of their thesis/portfolio/major paper.

A research methods course is additionally highly recommended.

TEFL/TESL faculty will assist the student in choosing appropriate courses to fulfill the student's professional goals.

Thesis Information

For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the [Thesis Manual](#) from the Graduate School office at 208 Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

Joint M.A. Degrees in English (TEFL/TESL) and Foreign Languages and Literatures

This program requires concurrent study in two Master's degree programs, one in English ([TEFL/TESL](#)) and the other in [foreign languages and literatures](#) (French, German, or Spanish). The two sponsoring departments provide an interdisciplinary program to enhance both theoretical and applied competencies in the learning and teaching of English and foreign languages as expressions of their respective cultures. Students must earn 60 semester credits to receive both M.A. degrees.

Admission to the joint M.A. program requires an undergraduate major or equivalent proficiency in a foreign language; graduation requires reading knowledge of an additional foreign language. Non-native speakers of English must achieve a TOEFL score of 550 or higher and TWE results must be submitted (official copy required) to be considered for admission.

Teaching Assistantships

[Teaching Assistantships](#) are available on a competitive basis. Most assistantships begin in the fall semester. Please apply by January 15th for full consideration.

Core Courses

- [E514 Phonology/Morphology for ESL/EFL](#)
- [E515 Syntax for ESL/EFL](#)
- [E526 Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language](#)
- [E527 Theories of Foreign/Second Language Learning](#)
- [E684 Practicum \(2-3 credits\)](#)
- [E687 Internship \(2-4 credits\)](#)
- Additional electives within an emphasis (13-17 credits)
- L500 Advanced Syntax/Stylistics
- L510 Research Methods
- L525 History of the Language
- L535 Graduate Studies in Civilization
- Additional electives in the foreign language and literature of specialization: 16 - 24 credits
- E695/L695 Independent Study or E699/L699 Thesis

Additional Requirements

Oral defense of your thesis or independent study project. For detailed guidelines about thesis preparation, please obtain the [Thesis Manual](#) from the Graduate School office at 208

Administration Annex or <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications>.

Peace Corps International Masters Degree with a Concentration in TESL/TEFL

The Master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language that makes up the Peace Corps Masters International degree in TESL is located in the English Department at Colorado State University. It is a Master's degree in English with a concentration in TESL.

As noted elsewhere in the PCMI literature, acceptance to a PCMI degree program requires application to and acceptance in both the Peace Corps and the relevant Master's degree program. Students in the PCMI TESL program at Colorado State University would normally complete the 16 to 19 credit core before undertaking their Peace Corps assignments. More course work would be both possible and desirable, however. Some course work might be chosen for its relevance to the type of work or location to which the Peace Corps volunteer would be assigned.

Candidates would return to Colorado State University to complete the remaining Master's degree requirements after finishing their Peace Corps service. The Peace Corps experience can be used to enhance the degree program in several ways. One is by providing an experiential basis for the candidate's final project, thesis, or portfolio. A second is by serving as the candidate's teaching internship (for up to four credits) if the appropriate conditions for the internship are met. Specific information on these options can be developed in discussion with the advisor for the PCMI program in TESL.

Certificate in Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language

In addition to the MA in TESL, the English Department offers a Certificate in English Language Teaching. The certificate is granted after completion of the 17-to-19 credit core of the MA program. The certificate is not a well-defined qualification for any specific type of English language teaching but may be an asset in finding a position teaching English in classroom settings in the US or in foreign countries.

Completion of the Certificate in English Language Teaching requires the candidate to be accepted into the MA program and, therefore, to meet all of the academic requirements for such admission.

It should be emphasized that the Certificate in English Language Teaching is not a certification to teach in the public school system in Colorado. Teaching in the public schools requires teacher licensure and endorsement in English as a Second Language teaching. Endorsement is a separate qualification that is not currently offered by Colorado State University.

Certificate in Women's Studies

The graduate-level certification in Women's Studies at Colorado State is for students who for professional and/or personal reasons wish to supplement their graduate programs of study. The program presumes a background in Women's Studies courses or their equivalent. Entering students should be able to demonstrate competency in the methodology and subject matter of an Introduction to Women's Studies course and one upper-division Women's Studies course.

Students who wish to pursue certification in the Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Program at the graduate level must declare their intent at the Office of Women's Programs and Studies. Completion of requirements in the Women's Studies Interdisciplinary Program will be noted on the student's permanent record, and the student will also receive a certificate.

All Colorado State students are invited to enroll in Women's Studies courses, whether or not they choose to participate in the Certificate Programs. Students not formally admitted to CSU may register at the [Admissions Office](#) through Guest Registration.

Students will complete 12-credit hours in Women's Studies courses and an independent study or a thesis, and will participate in non-credit colloquia.

Students must make application and their program of study will be approved by the Women's Studies Advisory Board. Additional information can be found on the Women's Studies Web site at <http://www.colostate.edu/Programs/WPS/>.

Core Courses

(Minimum of 6 credits required)

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
WS 692	Seminar in Women's Studies (required)	3
WS 695	Independent Study or	3-6
WS 699	Thesis*	3-6
--	Colloquium**	non-credit

* Ordinarily interdisciplinary work in Women's Studies is in the candidate's major discipline - The thesis is subject to Women's Studies Board oversight and is separate from departmental thesis/dissertation.

** Colloquium meets twice a semester with faculty and students presenting ongoing research and scholarship in Women's Studies.

Supporting Courses

(Minimum of 3 credits required, 6 credits maximum)

Students may select one or more graduate-level courses approved by the Women's Studies Advisory Board.

Some suggested courses (list also available in the Office of Women's Programs and Studies)

Students may select no more than one course from the upper-division Women's Studies undergraduate offerings as a supporting course.

Portfolio Option in Nonfiction

Are you writing nonfiction and looking for a way to get some recognition for it? Are you intrigued by the genre but unsure whether you want to make it a focus of your program? The Portfolio Option in Nonfiction may be just what you're looking for.

The Portfolio Option is NOT

- A complete degree program OR
- A required approach for the thesis or project.

Rather, the Portfolio Option allows students in any English Department program to take certain credits and submit a collection of writing for a certificate. In some programs of study (CD, for instance), the coursework may count toward the degree; in other programs, advisors will determine how many credits can count on the [GS-6 \(Graduate School Program of Study\)](#) form. Just remember-completing the degree and completing the portfolio option are separate. You can submit your portfolio in the second or third semester of work at CSU or two or three semesters after you complete your degree.

Requirements

4 courses in nonfiction:

- [E513C Form and Technique in Nonfiction](#)
- Two nonfiction workshops, chosen from:
 - [E640C Nonfiction](#)CV?
 - [E641 Writing Nonfiction](#) (variable topics)
- One additional course in nonfiction texts or a nonfiction thesis or project

Portfolio

The complete portfolio must be submitted by the eighth week of the semester you wish to receive the certificate. The portfolio should consist of a preface offering a personal and/or theoretical framework for the portfolio as well as the student's determination of the strongest piece in the portfolio and a minimum of four pieces of nonfiction writing.

The Portfolio Option in Nonfiction is available to English Department graduate students in all programs and to others outside the department admitted on the basis of a writing sample submitted to the English Department Nonfiction Committee. The Option identifies faculty, courses, and students who are interested in the subject of nonfiction writing and will foster a community of shared interests across departmental programs. Please see the English Department Web site for further details.

Going Through the Program

Advisors

The name of your temporary advisor is on your admission form. You may register by phone before you arrive. Your temporary advisor or the Graduate Coordinator can help you determine your first semester of course work. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator if you need advice during the summer. Before you have finished your first two semesters, you will need to choose a permanent adviser who will direct your thesis or independent study project.

Program of Study

The "Program of Study" ([GS form 6](#)) must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School before you register for your fourth semester. It requires:

- Selection of your permanent advisor who will chair your graduate committee.
- A listing of completed and planned courses that will count toward your degree.
- Selection of at least two additional faculty members to serve on your committee. One of these members must be from outside the English Department.

The GS6 Form is available in the Department Office, at the Graduate School, and online at <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS6.pdf>. Instruction for completing the form are available in <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS6Instructions.pdf>.

Credits that Count

When you fill out your GS form 6, keep in mind the following information:

- A minimum of 24 semester credits must be earned at Colorado State, 21 of which must be earned after admission to the Graduate School.
- Course work in the English Department must be 500-level or above to count toward your degree (except for E402 and E405 in the teaching program).
- Course work outside the English Department must be 300-level or above.
- You are allowed to count six credits of E684/E687 toward your degree, with no more than three credits of the six in E684A (composition).
- You can count 4 credits total for E695, taken in 2-credit increments
- Graduate Assistants must take a minimum load of 9 credits each semester.
- Variable topics courses may be repeated, and should be grouped together on your GS-6 form (e.g.: E630A - 9 total hours).

Incompletes

You are discouraged from taking incompletes. Any "I" becomes an "F" after one year if not replaced by a regular grade, and the grade of "I" may not be used for research (A, B, C, D, F, S, U are used instead). You may take your final written exam with one "I" on your record, but must

clear up all Incompletes before taking your oral exam.

Comprehensive Exams

The comprehensive exam consists of a preliminary written exam that varies in format according to your program, and a final oral exam on your thesis or independent study project. You must pass the written exam before taking the oral exam. The English Department has examination guides for each program of study that requires the exam. Please see individual program descriptions for information about comprehensive examinations.

Steps Leading to Graduation

The procedures and deadlines discussed in the following table apply to all English Department programs except where noted otherwise.

Activity	Suggested Time Frame for Completing the Activity
Application for Admission (GS form 1)	Six months before first registration. The form is available on the Graduate School Web site at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/US%20Application.pdf
Appointment of temporary advisor	Before first registration
Literature degree only: Poetry examination and approval of reading list	Preferably prior to the end of your second semester
Selection of graduate committee	Before registration for the fourth semester. Committees members are listed on the Program of Study Form (GS6).
Filing of program of study (GS form 6)	Before registration for the fourth semester. Directions for completing the form are available online at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS6Instructions.pdf . You can find the form on the Graduate School Web site at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS6.pdf .
Changes in committee (GS form 9A)	When change is made. Requires Submission of Changes in Committee Form. Directions for completing the form are available online at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS9AInstruction%20Sheet.pdf . You can find the form on the Graduate School Web site at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS9A.pdf .
Completion of written comprehensive exams	Ordinarily in the last semester of course work. Please note that only the Literature and English Education MAs currently require comprehensive examinations.
Application for Graduation (GS form 25)	Second week of graduation semester (fall or spring) or first week of graduation semester (summer). Instructions for the GS25 are available at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS25%20Instructions.pdf . The GS25 form is available at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS25.pdf .

Activity	Suggested Time Frame for Completing the Activity
Reapplication for Graduation (GS form)	Students who applied for graduation in a previous term can reapply for graduation online at https://www.research.colostate.edu/gradschool/reapply.asp .
Submit thesis or independent study project to committee	Two weeks before oral examination. (Theses and projects require approval of your committee. The E695 (project) and E699 (thesis) forms are available online in Portable Document Format . Instructions for completing the forms are also available online in Portable Document Format , Rich Text Format , and WordPerfect 6-8 Format .)
Final oral exam (thesis or project defense)	Before end of eleventh week of graduation semester (fall or spring) or before end of fifth week of graduation semester (summer).
Report of final exam (GS form 24)	The results of the final oral exam (thesis or project defense) are reported using Graduate School form GS24 Report of Final Examination Results. Normally, you will fill out a paper version of the form and hand-deliver it to the Graduate School. They require that the form be filed within 48 hours of successful completion of the Final oral Examination. The form is available online at http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Grad/Forms/GS%20Form%2024.pdf .
Deposit signed thesis ready for binding	Before end of eleventh week of graduation semester (fall or spring) or before end of fifth week of graduation semester (summer). Instructions for formatting theses are available in the <i>Thesis Manual</i> at http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=publications .

Financial Assistance

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

The English Department offers a variety of assistantships on a competitive basis. Applications for GTAs are considered after January 15th for positions beginning in the following fall.

Application forms are available in [Portable Document Format](#).

GTAs are chosen on the basis of GPA, letters of reference from former teachers or employers, writing ability, and GRE scores. In addition to a 20-hour-a-week obligation, all GTAs are required by the Department to carry 9 credits each semester. All assistantship positions provide tuition (in-state or out-of-state for the first year) and a modest monthly stipend.

Fellowships, Scholarships, Loans, and Grants

Fellowships: The University offers a limited number of fellowships for new and continuing students. These competitive fellowships may be applied to tuition, fees, or other direct expenses, and typically do not require any service on the part of the student. The Graduate School also has access to a national database that locates funding in your area of study.

Scholarships: The Department offers several scholarships for graduate students. View the [Scholarship](#) page for more information. You can also visit the [Colorado State University Financial Aid Office](#) Web site for information about scholarships.

Loans: The [Colorado State University Student Financial Services Office](#) will work with you to obtain loans. Applications should be received by March 15 of the year you wish to attend school to maximize your chances of receiving funding. Contact the Student Financial Services Office at 108 Student Services, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, 970-491-6321, or ask a question online at <http://sfs.colostate.edu/B00000.cfm>. You can also check the appropriate box on your [GS form 1](#). Financial Aid is not available for non-U.S. citizens.

Student Employment: The [Student Employment Services Office](#) provides lists for full-time and part-time positions on or off campus. For information, contact the office at 133 Student Services, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, 970-491-5714.

Additional Funding

The English Department encourages graduate students to do internships in areas applicable to their program. Some of these internships are funded. For further information, please see the Internship Coordinator.