

English Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Amanda and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Master of Arts in English Literature graduate program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Master of Arts in English Literature will help teachers deepen their content-area knowledge, as well as help all students strengthen their critical and analytical thinking, their research skills, and of course, their writing by engaging in a broad range of literary scholarship. This is a 33-credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years as a full-time student or 3 to 4 years as a part-time student.

Employment of those in English literature professions is projected to grow 13 percent by 2024 which is faster than average for all occupations.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree in any field from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Additional admission requirements for the Master of Arts in English Literature program include a personal statement outlining students' educational goals and what they hope to accomplish with their degree, and a writing sample of approximately 10 or more pages that demonstrates the applicant's ability to engage in sustained literary analysis that incorporates scholarly sources.

More details as well as the online application can be found at the English Department website, www.gvsu.edu/acad/english-ma.htm.

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Arts in English Literature program offers the quality and flexibility graduate students desire. This program provides coursework in a variety of topics from English, American, and world literature within a flexible curriculum, allowing students the opportunity to select their own area of concentration. Course requirements include but are not limited to: one literary theory course, one genre course, one literary period course, and one major author or topic course. Even these requirements allow for significant flexibility since topics vary each semester. A list of past courses is available on the English Literature program website. To complete the degree requirements, students may choose to research and write a thesis or take a qualifying exam.

Further educational opportunities include attending and presenting work at conferences, traveling

for part of a course, or engaging in research at various libraries both nationally and internationally. Students also have the opportunity to take part in a study abroad program in England designed specifically for English graduate students.

Courses are offered in the evening, usually once a week, either at the main campus in Allendale or at the campus in downtown Grand Rapids, providing flexibility for local and regional teachers and other professionals to attend. For full-time students, graduate assistantships are often available that offer a stipend and a partial tuition waiver.

Because GVSU is committed to maintaining a high level of quality, this program strictly limits course sizes to 15 students. This allows students the opportunity to develop personal relationships with fellow students, as well as our first-rate faculty. The English department has approximately 40 professors, covering all of the major fields of specialization in English. Faculty members are active scholars who present at professional meetings and publish regularly in their fields.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Arts in English Literature graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Sherry Johnson at johnshe@gvsu.edu, or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.