The Master of Arts in English program is designed for students who wish to enlarge their knowledge of English and U.S. literature, to improve their critical skills in literature and in writing, and/or to improve their skills as high school teachers of English. It is of interest to recent graduates, to students who wish to resume their education, and to teachers with initial certification who wish to deepen their knowledge of English as they complete the master’s degree.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Arts in English requires 30 credits to complete the degree with a concentration in Literature or Rhetoric. Students will complete seven four-credit courses which are chosen from either the Literature or Rhetoric option, as well as two credits of independent study that are awarded after passing the master’s examination.

Literature Option: seven courses (28 credits), including at least five courses in literature (700-level courses) that must include at least one course in English literature before 1800.

Rhetoric Option: seven courses (28 credits), including three in linguistics, writing or the teaching of writing (600-level courses) and four courses in literature that must include at least one course in English literature before 1800.

Education Track: requires 34 credits to complete the degree. The Education Track option is designed for students who have received the NYS Initial Teaching Certification for grades 7-12 and wish to pursue professional certification as middle or high school teachers of English. Each student must complete seven four-credit courses that can be selected from either the Literature or Rhetoric options (mentioned above). In addition, four credits are taken with the Department of Education and two credits of independent study are awarded after passing the master’s examination.

Four credits taken in the Department of Education:

- Advanced Methods of Teaching Secondary School English (3 Credits)
- Independent Study in Education (1 Credit)

Eight credits of the English courses linking content and pedagogy must be chosen from the following:

- The Teaching of Writing (4 Credits)
- Writing Across the Curriculum (4 Credits)
- Modern Grammar (4 Credits)
- Sociolinguistics (4 Credits)
- English Language Teaching and Learning (4 Credits)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor of Arts degree from an accredited institution
- At least 32 credits of undergraduate courses in English (excluding freshman composition)
- A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B) or a grade point average of 3.0 (B) in English courses
Students may be admitted conditionally with the approval of the coordinator of the English MA program; their admission will be reviewed after completion of required courses. The program must be completed in five years.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Graduate Application:
The application must be completed online at www.csi.cuny.edu/graduatestudies.

Transcripts:
Applicants must request official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. If you are currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution, have one transcript sent now and another sent when you complete the courses that you are taking. Applicants who have been enrolled at CSI do not need to request a CSI transcript; the Office of Recruitment and Admissions will obtain a copy.

Application Fee:
A $125.00 non-refundable application fee is required of all applicants. Please make your check or money order payable to the College of Staten Island.

Personal Statement:
Applicants must submit a one- to two-page personal statement that discusses the academic experiences that have prepared you for the graduate program in English

Letters of Recommendation:
Two letters of recommendation from English professors.

Writing Sample:
A minimum 8-10 page paper written for an English course with verified authorship.

TOEFL or IELTS:
The TOEFL or IELTS exam is a requirement of students for whom English is a second language.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Minimum required scores: 550 (Paper), 213 (Computer), or 79-80 (Internet). For the Master's in Business Management and Mental Health Counseling Program: 600 (Paper), 250 (Computer), or 100 (Internet). For additional information or to register for the exam, please visit the TOEFL website at www.ets.org. Our institutional code is 2778.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS): We will only accept the academic exam scores. Minimum required score: 6.5 (overall band). For the Master's in Business Management and Mental Health Counseling: 7 (overall band). For additional information or to register for the exam, please visit the IELTS website at www.ielts.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

For fall admissions the priority deadline is July 15. For spring admissions the priority deadline is November 16.

All documents must be submitted to the Office of Recruitment and Admissions.

Mailing Address:
Office of Recruitment and Admissions, Graduate Unit
College of Staten Island, CUNY
2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 2A, Room 103
Staten Island, NY 10314

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