

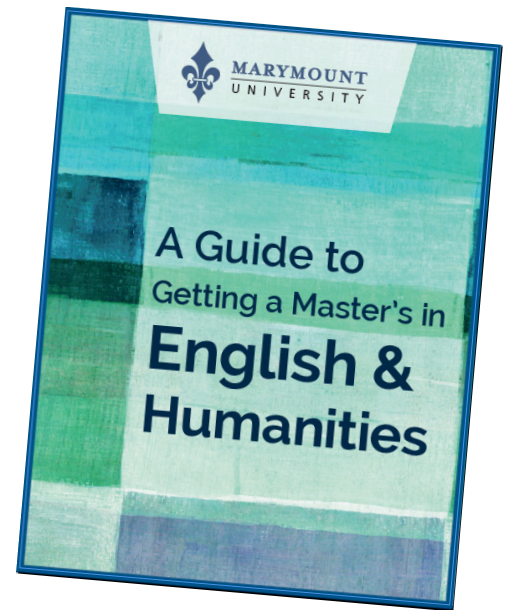


MARYMOUNT
UNIVERSITY

**A Guide to
Getting a Master's in
English &
Humanities**

About this Guide

This guide is designed to outline and detail the English & Humanities graduate program offered at Marymount University. The Admissions team at Marymount hopes that this guide will give you a better understanding of the advantages that come with the completion of the M.A. in English & Humanities and how pursuing such a degree can prepare you for advancement and success in a variety of industries and professional positions.



About Marymount University

Marymount University is an independent, coeducational Catholic university located in suburban Northern Virginia that was founded in 1950 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM). A Marymount education is grounded in the liberal arts, promotes career preparation, and provides opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Marymount also prides itself on providing a graduate education that is immediately applicable to the workplace. As a student-centered learning environment, Marymount is dedicated to the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual development of each individual.



What is English & Humanities?

An English & Humanities degree focuses on [a variety of subjects and studies](#) that use methods ranging from close reading of literary and archival texts to [the digital humanities](#), in order to explore the intricacies of the society, culture, and world around us.

Beyond literary studies, some of the common subjects in an English & Humanities program are:

- Theology
- Art
- Fine Arts
- Philosophy
- History
- Linguistics
- Political Science
- Fashion
- Interior Design

An English & Humanities degree cultivates marketable skills.

Graduate study in the humanities disciplines – literature, history, writing, philosophy, art history, and more – helps to develop individuals with a sense of context and civic-mindedness who have a variety of [marketable, wide-ranging skills](#):

- Advanced Reading Comprehension
- Analysis
- Argument
- Critical thinking
- Research
- Written and Oral Communication
- Independent Learning



About the Director

Dr. David Brown is an assistant professor of Literature & Languages at Marymount University. He is also the Graduate Director of the Teaching English at the Community College graduate certificate. Dr. Brown received his M.A. from the University of Puget Sound, a Ph.D. in English & Education from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Lancaster University in the U.K.

Career Outlook

A liberal arts education not only opens doors for employment, it's also a good predictor of future success. The Association of American Colleges and Universities and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems showed in a [recent study](#) that graduates with a liberal arts education (humanities or social sciences) earn more at their peak-earning ages compared to others who hold a professional or pre-professional degree.

Graduates of an advanced degree in English & Humanities are well equipped for careers in a multiplicity of professions, and here are several [career positions](#) that are common for graduates of a humanities program:

- **Higher Education Administrator**
- **Senior Marketing Director**
- **Senior Communications Specialist**
- **Industry Researcher**
- **Technical Writer**
- **Educator**
- **Learning Consultant**
- **Editor in Chief**
- **Web Producer**





Understanding Marymount University's Master of Arts in English & Humanities

[Graduate study in Marymount University's English & Humanities](#) fosters academic excellence in the liberal arts and helps to prepare students for master's-level careers in a variety of fields such as academia, publishing, communications, grant/professional writing, government, and the nonprofit sector.

The 33-credit M.A. in English & Humanities is a flexible, student-centered program of study.

Students in the English & Humanities graduate program may choose from three tracks:

Literature

Language &
Composition

Humanities

Teaching English at the Community College Graduate Certificate

Students in the M.A. program in English & Humanities may elect to embed the curriculum requirements for the [Teaching English at the Community College graduate certificate](#) into their master's degree coursework.

The TECC certificate consists of 15 credits, and its curriculum prepares students to teach English and Composition in U.S. community colleges. The certificate offers a strong foundational understanding of pedagogical practices shaped by research and reflection.



Course Descriptions

Marymount's M.A. in English & Humanities involves a [variety of courses](#) depending on what area of focus each student chooses. Courses range from programs like English, education, fine arts, humanities, history, information technology, interior design, management, philosophy, and theology and religious studies.

Just a few of the many courses offered in the English & Humanities master's program are:

EN 502 Engaging Critical Theory

This course involves a study of the major contributions to modern literary theory in Europe and the United States. Students will engage critical theory in historical and literary context and apply critical theory to a variety of texts, both written and performative.

CREDITS

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EN 542 Origins of the "Novel": Text, Context, and Critique

The 18th century, which saw the proliferation of print culture, the inauguration of Enlightenment thought, and the expansion of the British empire, also witnessed the emergence of a new literary form to figure that modern world. This literature course examines the earliest British "novels," the historical and cultural contexts from which they developed in the 18th century, and important critical thought about the form both before and after Ian Watt's watershed *Rise of the Novel*.

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EN 550 General Linguistics

This course involves a study of the basic concepts of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

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EN 590 Major Author(s)

This course provides an in-depth study of one or two major writers. Author(s) will be announced in the course schedule. This course may be taken more than once provided that the student selects different authors.

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FA 502 Theories and Methods of Art History

Introduces graduate students to the different approaches that art historians have used to study works of art. Students will explore issues unique and central to investigating art, as well as the many connections between art and other disciplines in the humanities. The class will also discuss major writings by art historians who have helped share the discipline, and students will apply these methods to an analysis of works of art in the broader Washington, DC, area.

3

HI 503 Foundations of Historical Thought

A graduate-level introduction to the methodology of the historical discipline. Course readings and discussions will center around a particular broad theme that has long engaged examination by historians, such as liberty, justice, war, law, and power. By exploring this theme, students will learn to develop the habits of thinking by which the historian tries to recreate the world of the past and see those past worlds through the eyes of those who lived in it. It will also introduce students to unique research opportunities in the Washington, DC, area.

3

IT 502 Creating Websites

An introductory course that investigates the business and technology of websites. Students study design issues such as navigation, usability, site architecture, search engine optimization, and Web 2.0 techniques. Students explore basic Web creation techniques, such as HTML, JavaScript, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). They learn how to interface with IT professionals to specify complex requirements. They create and publish their own sites to demonstrate their understanding of these issues.

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Upon Graduate Program Completion

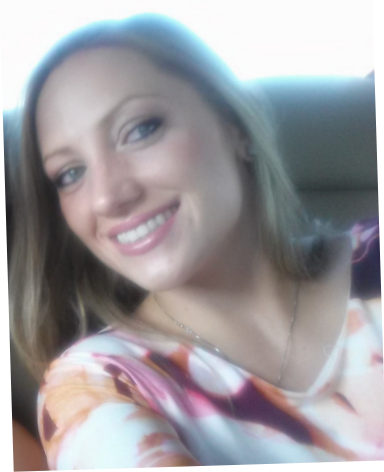
If you plan to pursue a doctoral program, you are encouraged to complete a thesis, which requires an oral defense. The thesis project – a substantial critical intervention in written form – offers you an opportunity to hone your writing and research skills, your time management and organizational skills, and your knowledge of a subject of personal interest.

If your goal is professional enhancement and/or career change, you are encouraged to complete an internship practicum. The Washington area provides a wealth of opportunities for challenging practicums in government organizations, museums, schools, international agencies, and research institutions.

This program prepares you for a variety of next steps:

- *Further advanced study and entry into a competitive doctoral program*
- *Career development or advancement in secondary and community college teaching*
- *Alternative academic careers in research, writing, editing, and the nonprofit sector*

Student Testimonial



My name is Sara Heflin, and I am an English teacher in Bristow, Virginia. I'm in my third semester of the M.A. in English & Humanities at Marymount, and I plan to graduate with my M.A. in the summer of 2018.

Marymount's English & Humanities program is helping me develop many skills. I am becoming a better researcher, and my writing abilities have dramatically improved. MU's program is continuously preparing me for success.

What first attracted me to Marymount was the program's understanding that we are working professionals who are also trying to obtain a degree. They understand that working full time and taking classes is an incredible challenge but are completely willing to work with you in any way that they can to make sure you succeed. Upon meeting my professors and adviser, I immediately knew that Marymount was the place for me, because I could tell that they truly cared. My professors truly care about my goals and are always more than willing to assist me. It is this type of dedication which inspires me to be a better teacher, to push myself academically, and to continue to improve my writing skills. Each of my professors has been a wonderful model for me as I strive to better myself as a teacher. Most importantly, the professors continue to push the boundaries of my ability to think critically.

I hope to continue to work in my current field of education, but I would like to see myself working at the college level at some point. The advice I would give to a student considering pursuing a master's degree in English & Humanities would include the following: from the start, realize that the what you are about to embark upon is going to be difficult and challenging, but don't forget - you are not alone! Your fellow students, and your professors, will be with you on your journey to gain your education and will not give up on you – they will make sure you succeed.

- Sara

A Marymount Source to Consider

Marymount's English & Humanities professionals have put together a blog for those interested in keeping up with Literature and Languages at Marymount University.

[The Literary Newsletter](#)



Next Steps

The Marymount Admissions team hopes this enlightening and informative guide will provide you with the necessary resources to reference and the opportunities to consider as you prepare for the next step in your academic career.

Have a question specific to our English & Humanities program?

Please feel free to contact our graduate program coordinator:

Zach Campion
703-284-5902

zcampion@marymount.edu

Have a question regarding our graduate admissions process?

Send us an email and we'll be in touch soon!

Graduate Admissions Main Office
703-284-5901

grad.admissions@marymount.edu

Are you interested in learning more about the programs offered at Marymount University as well as the various trends and news surrounding higher education? We invite you to subscribe *The Next Degree*, Marymount's blog for prospective graduate students.

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