Why Should I Get an M.A. in English at UNCW?

Employers frequently emphasize the need for employees who are skilled in oral and written communication and who can collaborate well with others—skills that an M.A. in English from UNCW provides.

Our students go on to find work as editors, journalists, technical writers, event planners, community college instructors and much more; we also help many of our students prepare for further study at the Ph.D. level. In recent years, our students have been admitted into programs at the University of Georgia, the University of Cincinnati, SUNY Binghamton, UNC Greensboro, the University of Tennessee and many others.

Award-Winning Faculty

The English faculty at UNCW includes many award-winning teachers and scholars, including Chancellor’s Teaching Excellence Award winners and recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Professorship Award. Areas of specialty include American Literature, British Literature, Children’s and Young Adult Literature, Cultural Studies, Digital Media Studies, Gender Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Professional and Technical Writing, Rhetorical Theory, and Visual Culture, among many others.

What Our Students Have to Say…

“This has been the most amazing journey of my life and I would not change a thing.” – Joanna W.

“Here, you are on a different level with professors and work more closely with them to become a true professional in the field.” – Brittney K.

“I am able to work in close proximity with faculty on a wide variety of subjects. Casting a wide net to gather new knowledge while still maintaining rigor is really possible here due to the accessibility and diverse interests of faculty. There isn’t anything or anyone that feels closed off.” – Jack K.

“Through the graduate program here, I have learned how to respond when someone asks me, ‘So, what are you going to do with that degree in English?’”

—Andrea I.

uncw.edu/english/graduate
Opportunities in English

Teaching Assistantships
Well-qualified students are eligible for a graduate teaching assistantship (GTA). GTAs undergo a three-stage program that includes training and working as a writing tutor in UNCW’s Writing Center; serving as an assistant to an instructor in both courses of UNCW’s composition program; and, in their second year, serving as the instructor of record in their own sections of ENG 101 and ENG 201.

Internships
M.A. students can take three hours of an internship at various sites on campus, including at Palaver, UNCW’s graduate interdisciplinary journal, and throughout the southeastern North Carolina region. Students who don’t receive GTAs can obtain teaching experience through an internship on campus or at nearby schools.

Directed Individual Study
When appropriate, M.A. students have an opportunity to design and pursue individual study with a specific professor whose research interests overlap with the student’s objectives.

Unique Course Offerings
In addition to core courses that introduce our students to the many facets of English studies, we offer a number of special topics courses each semester. In recent years, topics have included fiction and film adaptations for youth, hip hop music and culture, and gender and technology. All courses are capped at 15 students.

Travel
UNCW’s Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association make travel funds available to graduate students for research purposes.

Wentworth Fellowships
Charles Green, the English Department’s generous benefactor, provides funds supporting competitive fellowships for students to travel to locations connected to their literary research interests. In recent years, graduate students have traveled to New York City, India, Argentina, Japan and France. Awarded annually.

Student Organizations
M.A. students have the opportunity to get involved with several campus organizations geared specifically to graduate students, including UNCW’s Graduate Student Association and the English Department’s Graduate English Association. These groups promote professional development and organize social activities.

For additional information about our program, including details about the application process, please see our website at http://uncw.edu/english/graduate/index.html

“...I appreciate being able to find and follow my own path and the encouragement I get from faculty while pursuing it. Also, all the graduate students seem to have their individual interests, but we’re respectful of one another. Even my relationships with those who share similar interests are supportive and encouraging, never competitive.”

– Jenna M.

The historic city of Wilmington, situated on the coast of southeastern North Carolina, is vibrant, with a touch of southern charm. It boasts shops and restaurants with stunning views of the Cape Fear River and hosts several major festivals, including Cucalorus, a film festival that brings acclaimed movie stars and directors to town in November.

The Wilmington area also offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities including surfing, paddle boarding and kayaking at one of the three beaches that are only a short drive away from UNCW’s campus.