



Department of English – Graduate Division

M.A. Program in
Applied English Linguistics
Revised October 2005

GENERAL

The M.A. IN ENGLISH (SPECIALIZATION IN APPLIED ENGLISH LINGUISTICS) is designed to train students to think critically and knowledgeably about the English language; about issues of individual development and social behavior that require an understanding of the structure of the language and its modes of variation; and about philosophical, psychological, and pedagogical principles in the teaching and learning of the language. Through required and elective course work in the Department of English, students have the opportunity to learn about such topics as:

- Articulatory characteristics of human speech
- Different models of grammatical description (but with primary emphasis on the generative approach)
- The phonetics and phonology of modern English
- Syntactic structures and processes of modern English
- The main regional and social dialects of modern English
- Linguistic and political aspects of the global spread of English
- Pragmatic factors in the use of modern English
- The social and public uses of English
- The historical antecedents of modern English
- Principles of language acquisition and language learning
- Methodological principles in the teaching of English as a second or foreign language
- Research into the learning of English as a second language
- Linguistic factors in the description of literary style
- Theoretical and practical concerns in the analysis and teaching of written composition

The program of course work required for the M.A. (AEL) degree consists of three components: (1) prerequisite courses; (2) core courses; and (3) elective courses. The choice of elective courses signals the student's primary professional interests in the M.A. program. For most students, the M.A. (AEL) is taken with a focus on the teaching of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL). However, other areas of applied English linguistics that might interest students include the relation of Standard English to nonstandard dialects of English, applications of linguistics to research in the development of reading skills or in composition theory, research in first or second language acquisition, the use of language in society, exploration of the nature of oral discourse, advanced theoretical perspectives on syntax or phonology, and the linguistic analysis of written texts.

While the M.A. (AEL) is not itself a research degree, it provides a substantial foundation for both teaching and applied research activities of various kinds in fields in which knowledge of the structure of the English language, or of issues about the language, is of central concern, e.g. education, child language development, sociopolitical changes, communication, among others.

In order to qualify for the M.A. (AEL) degree, students must satisfy the Graduate School's residence requirement: a minimum of one year (or four summers) of residence and at least 18 credits of course work beyond the B.A. degree. (The M.A. (AEL) program requires 27 credits; see below). At least one semester (or two summer sessions) must be spent in residence at Madison (9 credits per semester and 6 credits per summer session are required).

Graduate work done elsewhere may be considered immediately for transfer for degree purposes, but for residence purposes only after half the residence requirement has been satisfied on the Madison campus. (All questions regarding residence must be referred to the Graduate School, which is the only authority on the subject.) Students who wish to transfer credits for residence or degree purposes must be sure that the Department has a full and final transcript of graduate work completed elsewhere. In addition, course syllabi, exams, papers, etc. may be required to determine whether credit for a particular course will be accepted for transfer.

The normal program of full-time study for the M.A. degree is 9-12 credits each semester during the academic year and 6 credits in the summer session. Students must obtain departmental approval of their programs at the beginning of each semester or summer session. This is done in conference with the M.A. (AEL) advisor at the time of registration.

ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM

Applicants are not required to hold an undergraduate major in English, but preference will be given to students with strong undergraduate preparation in English, linguistics, or a foreign language. Applicants should have:

- (a) Successfully completed the equivalent of at least 4 semesters of college-level study of one foreign language, including its spoken form, and
- (b) Received grades of B or better in English 324, Structure of English (or the equivalent), and English 330, English Phonology (or the equivalent).

Applicants who have not satisfied the foreign language prerequisite may be admitted to the M.A. (AEL) program but will be required to complete the four semesters of language study in concurrent course work.

Applicants who have not taken English 324 or English 330 (or their equivalents) may be admitted to the M.A. (AEL) program but will normally be required to complete these prerequisite courses satisfactorily in their first semester of residence.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

The Department recommends the M.A. in English degree after the student has satisfactorily completed the following requirements.

- (a) A minimum of 27 credit hours of approved graduate course work, plus prerequisites if necessary; 12 of the 27 credit hours are taken in the core courses, 15 credit hours in elective courses.
- (b) certification of reading knowledge of one modern foreign language, the choice to be approved by the M.A. (AEL) advisor if the language is other than French, German, Russian, or Spanish; nonnative English speakers automatically count English as the language that satisfies this requirement.
- (c) A final comprehensive examination.

There is no thesis requirement.

The prerequisite courses (English 324 and English 330, or equivalents) are acceptable regardless of whether they were taken for graduate or undergraduate credit. But it happens occasionally that a student has taken one or more of the core or elective courses in the M.A. program while enrolled as an undergraduate; in such cases, the student will be asked to take additional relevant course work as a graduate student in order to fulfill the minimum credit hours requirement for the degree. These decisions are made in consultation with the M.A. (AEL) advisor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The normal minimum requirement is 27 credits beyond the 6 credits of prerequisite work. The 27 credits are distributed as follows: 12 in core courses and 15 in elective courses. Of the 15 elective credits, six credits must be in 700 level courses and three credits in 900 level courses.

The student must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in graduate course work. Incompletes are allowed only in extraordinary circumstances and must be removed within eight weeks of the following semester of registration. If they are not removed within that time, they will revert to a grade of F unless special dispensation is granted by the Director of Graduate Studies of the Department of English.

1. PREREQUISITE courses are the following.

English 324 Structure of English. 3 cr. An introduction to analytic and descriptive methods as applied to English grammar. Prereq: 6 credits of introductory English literature.

English 330 English Phonology. 3 cr. Basic principles of phonetics and phonology applied to the description of English. Prereq: 6 credits of introductory English literature.

2. CORE courses are the following.

English 325 English in Use. 3 cr. An introduction to functional approaches to English structures, covering use in a variety of contexts and text types. Prereq: English 324 or consent of instructor.

English 329 Introduction to the Syntax of English. 3 cr. Basic principles of syntactic theory applied to the analysis of English sentences. Prereq: English 324 or consent of instructor.

English 333 Second Language Acquisition. 3 cr. Historical and theoretical backgrounds of problems of second language acquisition, with special reference to English. Prereq: English 324 or consent of instructor.

ONE of the following (The remaining two courses are also available to the student as electives).

English 331 Language Variation in the U.S. 3 cr. Description and analysis of geographical, social and stylistic variation in present day language use in the United States. Prereq: Sophomore standing.

OR English 332 Global Spread of English. 3 cr. Examination of the linguistic, social and political impact of the spread of English around the world. Analysis of geographical, social, and stylistic variation in English in diverse world contexts. Prereq: Sophomore standing.

OR English 336 English in Society. 3 cr. Social uses of English. Topics vary but are drawn from social aspects of the use of English structure, lexicon and discourse such as gender, race, class, education, sexual orientation, and social identity. Prereq: Sophomore standing.

3. ELECTIVE courses are the following.

English 323 History of the English Language. 3 cr. The development of English from its beginnings to the present. Prereq: Sophomore standing

English 331 Language Variation in the U.S. 3 cr. Description and analysis of geographical, social and stylistic variation in present day language use in the United States. Prereq: Sophomore standing.

English 332 Global Spread of English. 3 cr. Description and analysis of geographical, social and stylistic variation in present-day English throughout the world. Prereq: Sophomore standing.

- English 334 Introduction to TESOL Methods. 3 cr. An introduction to the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. Exploration of the contexts in which English is taught, and methods and materials used to teach it. Prereq: Sophomore standing and consent of instructor.
- English 336 English in Society. 3 cr. Social uses of English. Topics vary but are drawn from social aspects of the use of English structure, lexicon and discourse such as gender, race, class, education, sexual orientation and social identity. Prereq: Sophomore standing.
- English 338 Topics in English Language and Linguistics. 3 cr. Subject differs each year. Prereq: Sophomore standing.
- English 339 Linguistics and Literary Study. 3 cr. Introduction to linguistic and pragmatic features of English and their application to language properties of texts, with special reference to literature in English. Prereq: Sophomore standing.
- English 341 Gender and Language. 3 cr. Historic and contemporary issues in the study of language and gender. We question taken-for-granted ideas about gender and language and explore samples of speaking and writing to see how they compare with our preconceived notions. Prereq: Junior standing.
- English 700 Introduction to Composition Theory. 3 cr. Rhetorical, linguistic, and psychological foundations of composition theory. Prereq: Grad standing or consent of instructor.
- English 708 Advanced English Syntax. 3 cr. The application of principles of modern syntactic theory to selected areas of complex English grammar. Prereq: English 329 or Linguistics 330.
- English 709 Advanced English Phonology. 3 cr. Problems of English segmental and suprasegmental phonology, including morphophonemic alternations and stress assignment. Prereq: English 330 or consent of instructor.
- English 710 Discourse Analysis. 3 cr. The study of methods of accounting for language in use, including a critical evaluation of approaches to different discourse domains, from interactional language use to edited texts. Primary focus is on relationships between grammar and discourse. Prereq: English 324 or consent of instructor.
- English 711 Research Methods in Applied Linguistics. 3 cr. An introduction to various research paradigms in applied linguistics and second language acquisition. A preparation for critically evaluating published research in applied linguistic and second language acquisition. Prereq: Graduate status and consent of instructor.
- English 713 Topics in Contemporary English Linguistics. 3 cr. Subject differs each year. Prereq: Consent of instructor.
- English 715 Advanced Studies in Second Language Acquisition. 3 cr. Advanced topics in the study of the acquisition of English and other languages by adults and children. Prereq: English 333 or consent of instructor.
- English 900 Seminar - Topics in Language and Cognition in the Composing Process. 3 cr.
- English 901 Seminar - Topics in the Structure of Written Communication. 3 cr.
- English 905 Seminar in Applied English Linguistics. 3 cr. Topics vary.
- English 906 Seminar - The English Language. 3 cr. Topics vary.

COURSES FOR CANDIDATES INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATE IN TESOL

The Program in English Linguistics also offers a Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages designed to provide academic and pedagogical preparation for prospective ESL/EFL teachers. The Certificate requires 21 credits of course work drawn primarily from the courses listed above in the MA program. Two of the Certificate courses do not, however, count toward the MA degree but are available to MA candidates who wish to acquire the Certificate. The two courses which do not count toward the MA degree are the following.

- English 335 Techniques and Materials for TESOL. 3 cr. Supervised practice in the application of techniques and materials in the teaching of English as a second language, including teaching and video-taped sessions. Prereq: English 334 and consent of instructor.

- English 337 TESOL Workshops. 1 cr. modules. Practical modular workshops on key aspects of language teaching, stressing the application of techniques and theory to classroom needs. Rotating topics include teaching of reading, writing, oral skills, pronunciation, grammar, and assessment. Prereq: English 334 or consent of instructor.

Both of these courses (or their equivalents) are required before students can be appointed as Teaching Assistants in the ESL Program.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Each M.A. candidate is expected to demonstrate reading competence in one foreign language by one of the following methods.

1. The equivalent of a third and fourth semester reading course in college with neither grade lower than B
2. An examination approved by the English Department

Information concerning the time and place of such examinations is regularly included in the Department's Graduate Student-Faculty Committee (GSFC) Newsletter. A student must fulfill the foreign language requirement before sitting for the comprehensive M.A. examination.

Nonnative speakers of English may offer English as the language which satisfies this reading competence requirement. Native speakers of English may choose French, German, Russian, or Spanish as their foreign language without any special permission from the M.A. (AEL) advisor. However, if students wish to offer a language other than one of these four, they must petition the M.A. (AEL) advisor to do so.

Students enrolled in the program leading to the M.A. (AEL) degree should recognize that the purpose of this requirement (reading competence) is distinct from the purpose of the prerequisite for admission to the degree program (see (a) under ADMISSION TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM above). All students in this program are required to have the experience of learning a second language, including its spoken form; if students have not satisfied this prerequisite prior to admission, they will be required to take four semesters of language study concurrently with courses leading the M.A. degree. Also, all students in this program are required to demonstrate reading competence of one foreign language. Often, the same language may serve to satisfy both the prerequisite and the reading competence requirement, but this may not necessarily be the case. If a student has satisfied the prerequisite by study of a language other than those listed above, the student may be required to demonstrate reading knowledge of French, German, Russian, or Spanish in order to satisfy the Foreign Language Requirement for the M.A. degree.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

M.A. candidates are eligible to take the final comprehensive examination when they have fulfilled the foreign language requirement, have removed all incompletes or deficiencies from the academic record, and have completed all course requirements or are in the final semester of completing course requirements. Students who wish to take the examination must register with the Graduate Division of the English Department not less than six weeks before the examination date in the fall semester or in the summer session.

The final comprehensive examination is administered twice a year, in January and in July. The examination is administered in Madison; under extraordinary circumstances a student may petition the Graduate Committee of the Department to be allowed to take the examination at some location other than Madison.

The final comprehensive examination is based on material covered in the curriculum and on the MA (AEL) Reading List, which is periodically updated. The examination is given in two parts. Part I (2.5 hours) focuses on discussing basic concepts in English linguistics, in particular in (a) English grammar (structure and use), (b) the English sound system, and (c) recurring themes in applied English linguistics. Typically, linguistic data are provided and the candidate is asked to present an analysis of those data or to explain the concept(s) associated with them. Part II (3.5 hours) of the exam is devoted to the analysis of advanced, more complex topics. The focus is on problems and issues in three of the following areas: (a) syntax and morphology, (b) phonetics and phonology, (c) learning and using a second language, (d) language in education, (e) language variation and change, (f) language in interaction. Candidates will have choices that enable them to respond to those areas that have been the focus of their interest.

Back copies of the MA (AEL) comprehensive examinations are available for student review in the Graduate Office (7195H Helen C. White Hall)."

A candidate who fails the examination may take it a second time. Only on petition to the Graduate Committee may a student take the examination a third time. However, no student is permitted to take the examination after five years have elapsed since last taking course work in the Department. Students who present themselves for the M.A. comprehensive examination will be counted as having written the examination even if the examination is not completed.

DISTINCTIONS OF DEGREE

The M.A. degree is awarded on the basis of the student's overall performance in course work and on the comprehensive examination. Distinctions in the level of Pass are made but are recorded only in Departmental records, not on the official transcript or on the diploma. The Pass levels are: Pass with Distinction; Pass 1; Pass 2; Terminal Pass. Pass with Distinction and Pass 1 enable the student to be considered for admission to the Ph.D. program in English Language and Linguistics. Admission to the Ph.D. program is dependent on the student's research interests and academic qualifications. Pass 2 allows the student to continue to take courses in the department but, in order to be admitted to the doctoral program, the student must retake the comprehensive examination within one year and achieve a Pass 1 level. A Terminal Pass bars the student from any further graduate course work in the UW-Madison English Department.

TYPICAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS

For students who have not satisfied some or all of the prerequisites, the typical and recommended program of study is the following (P = Prerequisite; C = Core; E = Elective).

Year 1	Semester I	Semester II
	English 324 (P) English 330 (P) English 331/332/336 (C) or English 334 (E)	English 325 (C) English 329 (C) English 333 (C)
Year 2	Semester I	Semester II
	English 331/332/336 (C) or English 334 (E) English 7XX (E) English elective	English 7XX (E) English 9XX (E)
Summer Session		Final Comprehensive Examination

Students interested in the Certificate in TESOL should take one or more modules of English 337 during their first year. They must also take English 334 before they can take English 335 (currently taught only in the spring semester) which is required for any student who wishes to teach in the ESL Program.

Note. The program of study recommended above is for students whose focus is on TESOL. Students with other interests will plan their programs in consultation with the M.A. (AEL) Advisor.

ESL TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

A student who is enrolled for the M.A. (AEL) degree who has successfully complete English 334, English 335 (or the equivalent), and one or more modules of English 337 may be appointed as a salaried Teaching Assistant in the English Language Institute (regular 8-week Summer Session). Such an appointment provides practical experience, under supervision, in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages, but this experience is not required for the M.A. degree, nor is the opportunity guaranteed.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS

Write to: Director, Programs in English Linguistics
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