Updated 10/16/2026

TCU ENGLISH
READ THE WORLD. WRITE A WAY.

Accelerated M.A. Degree in English

Description

This degree option allows outstanding TCU undergraduates with a declared English or Writing major to earn both a B.A. and M.A. degree in five years. Students may apply for admission into the Accelerated M.A. in English program after earning 60 hours of undergraduate coursework. This degree option is only available to full-time students.

For admission consideration, students must submit a graduate program application packet. The application process is selective; only students with an outstanding record and strong recommendations will be considered. If admitted, students will complete a 30-hour graduate degree plan. Students will complete up to 12 hours of graduate coursework (four graduate courses) during the last year of undergraduate study. Those 12 hours may also fulfill requirements for the BA in English or writing. Candidates must work with the Director of graduate Studies to determine how the courses will apply to the MA degree. At the end of a student's fourth year, assuming all other graduation requirements are met, the student earns the baccalaureate degree (in English or writing). During the fifth year, students must take an additional 18 hours to complete the Accelerated MA in English degree including 6 thesis hours.

For questions about the application process, email Dr. Stacie McCormick, Director of Graduate Studies, s.mccormick@tcu.edu.

Application Requirements

- Applicants must appear in the TCU system as an English or Writing major with 18 credit hours completed in the major.
- Applicants must have completed 60 hours of credit overall.
- The applicant's TCU GPA and major GPA must be 3.5 or higher.

Application Materials to Submit

- Three (3) letters of reference directly relevant to postgraduate work in English; at least two must be from current faculty in the Department of English. **Be sure to request letters *as soon as possible*; there should be plenty of lead time for faculty to write on your behalf.**
- A completed Application Form for admission, obtainable at https://addran.tcu.edu/english/graduate-programs/main-english.php (scroll to the bottom of the page).
- A professional statement (500-1000 words) outlining your career goals and how they align with the M.A. program; a sense of a thesis project area; and identification of the faculty members suitable for such work.
- A sample of academic writing (10-20 pages, exclusive of notes and works cited) that demonstrates appropriate academic writing skills for success in a graduate program in English; other sorts of writing—such as journalism, poetry, or fiction—may also be submitted to supplement the required sample of scholarly writing.
- Copies of all undergraduate transcripts (*note:* GRE scores are not required).

All materials should be sent as file attachments in one email to Ms. Merry Roberts (m.roberts@tcu.edu) and Dr. Stacie McCormick (s.mccormick@tcu.edu). Reference letter writers should send letters directly to Ms. Roberts and Dr. McCormick.

Degree Requirements

Students admitted to the program will complete a 30-hour graduate degree plan, including 6 thesis hours. During their final year of undergraduate study, students will complete up to 12 hours of graduate coursework (4 courses), which may also fulfill requirements for the English or Writing B.A.; students will work with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine how the undergraduate courses will apply to the M.A. degree. At the end of this final year of undergraduate study, assuming that all other graduation requirements are met, the student earns the B.A. degree in English or Writing. During the fifth year, students take an additional 18 hours to complete the Accelerated M.A. in English degree, 6 of which are thesis hours (see Graduate program policies handbook for details). Here is a sample course schedule for the fourth and fifth years of study:

Year 4 Fall	Elective 1 (Graduate class)		Remaining Undergraduate courses
Year 4 Spring	Elective 2 (Graduate class)	Elective 3 (Graduate class)	Remaining Undergraduate courses
Year 5 Fall	Elective 4 (Graduate class)	Elective 5 (Graduate class)	Thesis: 3 hours
Year 5 Spring	Elective 6 (Graduate class)	Elective 7 (Graduate class)	Thesis: 3 hours

Financial Aid

Undergraduate financial aid can cover up to the fourth year, but not the fifth year since students will be full graduate students during that time, matriculating into the M.A. program during the summer between the fourth and fifth years. The English Department does not offer financial aid to Accelerated M.A. students in their final year.