The Doctor of Philosophy program in English is designed as preparation for the teaching, publishing, and administrative service required of a career in academia and to provide depth of study in the field of English.

For further information, see Ph.D. in English Literary Studies on the department's website.

**Requirements**

The Doctor of Philosophy program in English requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Concentrations are offered in areas such as literary history and critical theory, as well as interdisciplinary areas such as cultural studies and transnational studies.

Of the minimum 72 s.h. required for the degree, at least 51 s.h. must in graded course work at the 3000-level or above. Of those, at least 30 s.h. must be in English courses at the 5000-level or above.

Students must gain formal admission to Ph.D. candidacy by a vote of the Graduate Steering Committee, usually during the third semester of doctoral study.

Students complete course work in literature and culture of any four of these historical periods, as expressed in texts of the English-speaking and -writing world (usually but not always British or American): pre-1500, 1500-1660, 1660-1800, 1800-1900, 20th and 21st centuries. They also complete three seminars in the Department of English at the University of Iowa.

Students also must fulfill the program’s foreign language requirement, usually by taking a standardized test or completing an advanced undergraduate course numbered 3000 or above in a language other than English.

The comprehensive examination consists of the following: a portfolio of five scholarly questions based on a period of literary history (usually British or American); a review essay and annotated bibliography in a special area of interest; two course syllabi; an article to be submitted for publication; and an introduction to the portfolio that synthesizes its parts in preparation for a two-hour oral exam.

A dissertation is required. Students present their prospectus formally to a faculty committee and must undergo a final exam defending the dissertation.

All doctoral candidates are strongly advised to gain teaching experience, preferably in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Department of Rhetoric and in GE CLAS Core literature courses.

For application forms and a complete description of the Ph.D. program, contact the department's graduate program academic coordinator.

**Admission**

Applications and all supporting documents for graduate admission must be submitted electronically by December 14.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website.