The Doctor of Philosophy program in English is designed as preparation for the teaching, publishing, and administrative service required of a career in academia or academic-adjacent fields, and to provide depth of study in the field of English. Concentrations are offered in areas such as literary history and critical theory, as well as interdisciplinary areas such as cultural studies, pedagogy, and the digital humanities.

The department now offers a streamlined version of the Ph.D. that incorporates book studies, including a certificate from the Center for the Book. For further information, see English literary studies and the specialization in book studies on the department website.