

Graduate Program Learning Opportunities

Graduate students in the English Department will:

- acquire familiarity with a range of literary genres produced in various historical contexts.
- critically evaluate the ethical, political, and formal aspects of texts within and across historical contexts, exploring how these texts are shaped by and reflect diverse experiences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and other forms of identity.
- examine language and representation not simply as mimetic endeavors but as acts that constitute ways of being in the world.
- enhance their skills of critical analysis, oral communication, and written argument in courses on literature, theory, and pedagogy.
- learn how literary works and literary theory develop distinctive perspectives on just or unjust social arrangements and have the potential to imagine more equitable possibilities, including the ways theorists imagine texts as sites of intervention into social, cultural, political, and ethical issues.
- seek to understand how the intricate formal operations of literary texts function to complement, revise, complicate, or counteract other discourses (historical, political, legal, economic) about urgent social and ethical issues.
- study the theory, history, and practice of writing pedagogy and put their knowledge to use as instructors in a first-year program that prioritizes writing about pressing issues of public concern.

LSJ M.A. Learning Outcomes

M.A. students will:

- have the knowledge and skills to be informed, active scholars in a wide range of communities, within and outside institutions of higher education.
- be able to identify social justice issues and propose a theoretical or practical approach that is appropriate to addressing those issues.
- be able to connect and employ both academic and broader public discourses about social justice.
- have the knowledge and skills to articulate the ethical, political, and social significance of a wide range of texts--including those not traditionally identified as literary so as to write for a wide range of purposes inside and beyond academia.
- be prepared to pursue further academic study, to work in higher education, and to employ advanced research and writing skills in careers outside of academia.

Ph.D. Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes for M.A. students, Ph.D. students will:

- develop expertise in the primary and secondary literature of a specific period or field of study, focused on literary, cultural, and theoretical texts.
- engage in a process of rigorous and sustained inquiry that enables entry into a focused scholarly conversation.
- contribute new knowledge to the scholarly conversation in their chosen field through the dissertation project.
- gain further expertise in pedagogy, through opportunities to design and teach advanced writing courses, introductory literature courses, and online summer courses.