MASTER OF ARTS IN
ENGLISH: CONCENTRATION IN
COMPOSITION

Admission to Program
In addition to the materials sent to the graduate admissions office, the applicant must submit the following items to the English Department:

• a one to two page typed statement of purpose in which the applicants are to explain their interest in pursuing the M.A. degree, including describing any previous teaching, tutoring, training, writing or editing experience that may contribute to their success in the program; discuss their readiness to meet the rigors of graduate-level coursework; and explain how this degree will further their career plans. The statement of purpose must demonstrate the applicants’ ability to produce clear, cogent, and polished prose;
• a recent writing sample of seven to 10 pages. This writing should be analytic in nature. It may be from a previous course or it may be writing that the applicants have undertaken in a professional pursuit beyond the classroom;
• a statement with the applicants’ signature certifying that the writing sample is their own work;
• one set of official transcripts from all colleges attended;
• two letters of recommendation that speak to the applicants’ academic potential and/or their potential as future educators.

Applicants without an undergraduate major in English or a related field may be required to complete additional preparatory coursework in literature, linguistics, education or related field before being advanced to classified standing and filing the Advancement to Candidacy (ATC).

Students must take ENG 700 as early as possible in the program (preferably during the first semester) and complete the course with a grade of B in order to continue with other courses in the program.

The master’s program permits students to include on their ATC only courses in which they have received grades of B or better.

Students completing this program are expected to be able to write prose publishable in academic journals.

Written English Proficiency Requirement
Level One
Evaluation of the writing sample submitted as part of the application packet.

Level Two
Satisfactory completion of ENG 895.

English (M.A.): Concentration in
Composition – 30 units
Core Courses (15 units)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 700</td>
<td>Introduction to Composition Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 704</td>
<td>Pedagogical Grammar for Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 709</td>
<td>Seminar in Teaching Integrated Reading and Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
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Applicants admitted for the fall semester should take the following four core courses during their first academic year in the program:

• Fall semester: ENG 700 and ENG 709.
• Spring semester: ENG 704 and ENG 710.

Applicants admitted for the spring semester will receive advising based on the availability of spring courses. Because of the rotation of course offerings, spring admission entails a minimum of five semesters to complete the program.

Electives (15 units)
to be taken with the approval of an advisor.

Culminating Experience
A field study or research project must be successfully completed by all candidates for the degree. The field study or research project, which investigates and/or applies knowledge acquired in the student’s program of study, must have the recommendation and approval of two faculty field study or research project advisors. All SF State specifications for completion of a field study or research project must be met. Students who fail ENG 895 will receive an Incomplete (I) grade and may resubmit their project once for a passing grade. If their project fails a second time, they will be recommended for declassification.