

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the deadlines for admission?

We will need applications by December 15 if you want to be considered for University fellowships. We will continue to accept applications beyond that date. Check with us via email: eng1grad@temple.edu

Can I submit the application online?

One part of the process is an online application to the Temple University Graduate School. In addition, you can complete the application by submitting materials via Interfolio. Also, you can email supplemental materials in PDF form to: eng1grad@temple.edu.

Can transcripts be submitted online?

Transcript copies can be submitted online and will get the admissions process started. However, we will still need official transcripts sent directly from your school.

Can letters of reference be emailed?

Yes, but they must be sent directly from the person giving the recommendation to: eng1grad@temple.edu

Do all reference letters have to come from former or present professors?

We prefer letters from your instructors because they can evaluate your potential for academic success at the graduate level; but if you feel someone else can provide an important perspective on your qualifications, you can substitute one letter.

What are the G.P.A. requirements for admission?

The Graduate School has a minimum requirement of 3.0 (out of 4) for admission, and a minimum of 3.25 to be considered for a Teaching Assistantship. But given the competitive nature of admission and awards, it's more typical for admitted students to have around a 3.5 GPA in English and above 160 in GRE scores.

Is there a minimum GRE score for admission?

Admission is not based exclusively on GRE scores, but the typical range for admitted students is 153 to 166 in verbal reasoning (500 to 700 in the old version of GRE). Offers of support through teaching assistantships and fellowships are competitive and are based on GRE and GPA scores.

How many applicants does English accept each year?

We accept from 10 to 20 each year, and typically 5 to 10 students enroll in the program..

Can I be admitted to the Ph.D. program without a Master's?

Yes, we do admit students with only the B.A. degree. Students coming with a B.A. will take generally a year longer than students who have the M.A.

Can I transfer any of my MA degree credits to Temple for the Ph.D.?

Yes, you can transfer up to 15 credits toward our requirement of 42 course credits.

How long does it take to complete the degree?

It typically takes anywhere from 5 to 7 years, depending on whether you come in with a Master's degree and receive transfer credits and on other factors (teaching responsibilities, fellowship support, etc.).

Can I receive a graduate degree on a part-time basis?

Part-time is defined as fewer than 9 credits per semester. While the English Department and the University prefer that students pursue their degree on a full time basis, in certain circumstances part-time study is allowed. Students who pursue the degree part-time are not exempt from the Graduate School rules and benchmarks for time to completion

How do I apply for a fellowship and financial assistance?

There is no additional form required. We offer assistance to the best qualified applicants, ranging from University fellowships to Teaching Assistantships. Only applicants to the doctoral program are eligible for fellowships and TAships.

What is the difference between a Fellowship and a Teaching Assistantship?

Both types of support consist of full tuition, a living stipend, plus medical insurance. University Fellowships pay a slightly higher stipend each year and they allow students two years of support without teaching along with two years of teaching, whereas TAships require teaching for each year of support.

How many Teaching Assistantships do you award each year?

We average around 4 to 6 each year. In addition, entering students typically are awarded 1 or 2 University Fellowships each year.

Are there other forms of financial aid?

Some internships are available at the university in a variety of campus research and writing programs.

How successful are students from your program in finding work?

In recent years, 40% have found work in tenure track positions, another 24% in non-tenure full time teaching. In addition, 15% are working in non-teaching position for which the Ph.D. served as a qualification. While some Ph.D.s find work immediately upon graduating, it's not uncommon for recent graduates to hold positions as adjuncts for one or more years before securing a full-time position.

Can I apply even if I don't have an undergraduate degree in English?

Yes, but you'll need to provide evidence of reading and skills that would be roughly comparable to those of an English undergraduate major. Students in Philosophy, Religion, History, and some other disciplines might be able to offer such evidence more easily, say, than someone in the sciences, but we are looking for demonstrated potential, whatever the background.