



English Education (Grades 7–12)

Master of Arts (M.A.) – Leading to Initial Teaching Certification

Overview

In an effort to build the teaching profession and provide new opportunities for prospective graduate students, the Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education offers a full-time Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program that will lead to initial teaching certification in Elementary Education, English Education, Mathematics Education, Science Education, Secondary Social Sciences Education, Business, Marketing, and Informational Technology Education, or World Language Education. All programs are campus-based programs.

Cohort-based. Graduate students proceed together with peers and world-class faculty creating a community of educators in residential programs.

Graduate Degree and Certification. Upon successful completion, students will graduate with a master's degree, be fully certified to teach in Nebraska, be eligible for certification in other states, and be employable for the following school year.

Who Should Apply? These programs are designed for qualified graduate students who have earned a bachelor's degree *outside the field of education* and who can commit to an intensive and accelerated pathway to a career in the teaching profession. These programs are not suited for educators who currently have teaching certification in any subject area or former educators seeking to renew certification. For certification renewal, please [click here](#).

Practicum + Student Teaching. Students will be placed in the [Lincoln Public Schools](#) or [Omaha Public Schools](#) for teaching internships in the classroom. Collaborative relations with public schools offer students' field experiences in diverse classrooms, purposefully designed to help connect coursework theory and methods to classroom practice. Students will gradually build proficiency in teaching, adding responsibilities and skills throughout a nine-month period and be prepared to assume 14 weeks of full-time student teaching in Spring.

Inquiry. Inquiry infuses all aspects of this graduate program. Students will begin to focus on a curriculum inquiry project that requires the development of classroom research about a problem of practice in teaching and learning, a research project that will form the capstone experience of the program.

Residency. Students will be attending class on the UNL campus and gaining practical experience in K-12 schools in and near the Lincoln/Omaha area. During the academic year, the program schedule will follow the school calendar. Students must live within a reasonable traveling distance to the UNL campus and local cooperating schools. Please note that the funding available for our Master of Arts in Science Teaching Program requires applicants to be US citizens.



As a land-grant institution, we understand that our primary mission at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is to provide outstanding education and teacher preparation so that we can better serve the state and the citizens of Nebraska. Our central commitment in this program is to prepare outstanding English educators who are passionate about engaging all students in intellectual work that draws them into the debates, ideas, and conversations that animate the discipline of English. To be a part of this program is to be part of a tradition of excellence, commitment to educational equity, and engagement with critical scholarship around teaching and learning.

Who Should Apply?

The Master of Arts leading to initial teaching certification in English Education offers a pathway to the field of middle and secondary-level teaching for those with a degree in English (or 42 credits in English) but not a teaching credential. Application Deadline is October 1st.

We are looking for applicants who:

- Are equally passionate about *studying* English as well as *teaching* English to secondary students
- Are open to professional, intellectual, and personal growth.
- Are open to expanding their understandings of literacy and learning, and willing to extend those new understandings to the design and enactment of curriculum in English classrooms.
- Are committed to collaborating not only with the English education community of professors, supervisors, and alumni at UNL, but are also committed to collaborating with our community of colleagues within public schools in and around Lincoln.
- Are eager to engage in critical conversations regarding race, class, gender, and power as related to teaching, learning, and schooling.
- Approach teaching as a multi-faceted profession that includes connecting with communities, ongoing professional learning, meaningful collaboration with other teachers, and a commitment to justice.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Have graduated from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in English (or 42 hours in English).
- Have a strong academic background that qualifies them for admission to the TLTE Master of Arts program, including an undergraduate cumulative GPA minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Have experience working with adolescents in formal or informal settings.
- Can passionately commit to participating in the cohort-based, full-time academic teacher education program.

Initial Certification Only

This program is *not* suited for educators who currently have teaching certification in any subject area or former educators seeking to renew certification. For certification renewal, please contact [Dr. Sara Skretta](#).



Typical Sequence for Required Coursework and Practical Experience (48 credits)

Spring Semester - 12 credits

TEAC 439/839 - YA Literature

TEAC 851N - Learning and Teaching Principles and Practices in Secondary English

TEAC 861 - Education for a Pluralistic Society: Foundation and Issues

TEAC 841 - Content Area Reading

Summer Sessions - 9 credits

TEAC 800 - Inquiry into Teaching and Learning

TEAC 813M Teaching ELLs in the Content Areas

SPED 801B - Accommodating Exceptional Learners in the Secondary Classroom

Fall Semester - 10 credits

TEAC 852N - Curriculum Principles and Practices in Secondary English

TEAC 894N - Professional Practicum begins with and follows the public school calendar: Lincoln Public Schools

EDPS 851 - Psychology of Adolescence

TEAC 889 - Masters Seminar

Spring Semester - 9 credits

TEAC 897N - Student Teaching begins in January and continues until the end of the public school calendar

TEAC 803B - Student Teaching Capstone Seminar

Summer Sessions - 8 credits

TEAC 801 - Seminar in Curriculum Inquiry

TEAC 889 - Masters Seminar Continued

**Elective in English (highly recommended ENGL 854: Advanced Writing Projects)

Graduate August



Faculty Contacts



Dr. Lauren Gatti earned her BA in English and Education from Lawrence University, her MA in English from Loyola University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before starting her doctorate, she taught high school English in and around Chicago for eleven years. She teaches Methods courses in English Education and graduate courses in Teacher Education.



Dr. Sarah Thomas earned both her master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Curriculum Studies and English Education. She taught both middle and high school English for twenty years, then transitioned into an English Education Professor of Practice position at UNL. Her role involves coordinating and supervising practicum and student teaching placements, teaching English Education cohort and Foundations classes, and supporting the new English Education graduate program.

Program Values

As members of the National Council for Teachers of English, we adhere to and advance the following beliefs:

- Students learn through meaningful experiences that honor and build on as well as expand their interests, cultural and linguistic knowledge, and life experience.
- The professional integrity of teachers.
- Teachers continually refine their professional knowledge and combine it with their knowledge of each student to make wise decisions about assessment and instruction.
- The transformative power of language.
- Literacy education supports all students in the use of language to interact, imagine, reflect, think critically, and create knowledge in order to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

(Taken from [ncte.org/mission/bedrockbeliefs](https://www.ncte.org/mission/bedrockbeliefs); see also [ncte.org/mission/corevalues](https://www.ncte.org/mission/corevalues))

All graduates in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education are expected to demonstrate competence in the following areas articulated in the department's "Cognitive Map:"

- Knowing Theories of Learning and Relationship Roles in Teaching Practice
- Developing Curricular Vision
- Teaching English
- Teaching Diverse Learners
- Becoming Agents of Change and Reform
- Knowing Teaching in Terms of Its Foundational Dimensions
- Assessing Practices and Professional Judgment
- Structuring Learning Environments
- Growing Professional Knowledge



Financial Aid

The Marjorie Sawin Canary Fund

The Canary Fund is designed to benefit and support professional development experiences for current students and teachers including but not limited to visiting scholars, speakers, conference attendance and all costs associated with conferences and mentoring programs in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education, with preference given to English education students and teachers.

Canary Fund application deadlines are October 1st for first-semester conference travel and January 15th for second-semester conference travel.

Requirements for English Endorsement

STATE OF NEBRASKA ACADEMIC COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADES 7-12 ENGLISH ENDORSEMENT

In order to become certified and "endorsed" to teach English grade 7-12 in the State of Nebraska, you must complete sufficient English coursework. We require applicants to have earned at least 42 credit hours of English at the level of 199 or above with grades of 3.0 [B] or above. Any academic deficiencies must be remedied prior to program start date.

To evaluate your 42 English credits and to see if you have any academic deficiencies, please complete the [Application Coursework Worksheet](#).

Low English GPA.

If you feel that your GPA in your English courses does not reflect your knowledge and abilities and is well below 3.0, the Graduate Faculty Admissions Committee will consider scores from the following PRAXIS II examinations:

- Praxis II: English Exam (0041)
- Praxis II: English Language, Literature, and Composition Essays (0042)

These exams are NOT required for admission, but strong scores can offer further evidence of your disciplinary knowledge in English that is not represented in your academic record. Be sure to indicate in your application that you are taking these exams.

Application Requirements

The deadline to apply is October 1 and February 1.

Application Checklist

___ Complete the **initial teaching certification application**, including transcripts and fees, two weeks before the department application deadline.

___ Complete the **master's degree application**, including transcripts and fees, two weeks before the department application deadline.

___ Application Essay*

___ Resumé

___ Three letters of recommendation**



- ___ Minimum GPA of 3.0
- ___ Successfully complete a Criminal Background Check***
- ___ Successfully complete the Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core)****
- ___ Completed course worksheet for State of Nebraska initial teaching certification
- ___ Submit academic record transcripts

International Applicants

- TOEFL score of at least iBT 79; all subscores must be at least in the Intermediate/Fair range. If the IELTS is taken in place of the TOEFL, all subscores must be a minimum of 6.5. Applicants taking the TOEFL or the IELTS may be asked to take part in an online interview.
- The equivalent of at least one year of full-time teaching experience is required for consideration.

Application Essay and Letters of Recommendation

The Graduate Admissions Committee will review for the following evidence:

- Academic strengths and readiness to do graduate study
- Professional and academic goals and whether these align with the goals of the Department

In addition to the minimum requirements listed above, transcripts and resume, the Graduate Admissions Committee closely examines your letters of recommendation and your application essay.

***Application Essay.** The Graduate Admissions Committee looks closely at the applicant's goals in the application essay for further evidence of your meeting the admissions criteria. A well-written essay is crucial to admissions decisions. This application essay is a concise statement in which you address clearly why you want to pursue this graduate program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In this essay you should address clearly:

1. Your academic and/or professional goals and how this graduate program will enable you to meet these goals.
2. Your academic strengths, with specific attention to your background in higher education and how this qualifies you for graduate study at a major university.
3. Any professional experience, knowledge, and skills you possess and how these further qualify you for graduate study at a major university. This statement should be between 700-1000 words.

****Letters of Recommendation.** The application requires three letters of recommendation. The Graduate Admissions Committee considers letters an important part of any application. You should solicit letters that directly address your readiness and qualification to do graduate study in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. Letters should come from those who are familiar with your academic and professional work, such as former professors, employers or administrators. Do not include letters from friends, family members, or your own high school teachers. Each of these will be disregarded in the review and detract from your application.

*****The Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska** school districts require that College of Education and Human Sciences students who plan to pursue a degree in an education-related field, athletic training majors, and any other UNL students who enroll in CEHS courses that involve



practicum experiences in the schools are required to undergo a formal screening process related to criminal history through One Source. Consequently, a background check is a pre-requisite for application to our programs.

******The Nebraska Department of Education Competency Requirement.** It is now required for admission that you take the Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core), which replaces the Pre-Professional Skills Test or CORE. This is a minimal knowledge competency examination that the Nebraska State Department of Education requires of all applicants for admission to any teacher education program. Students need documentation of proficiency in the 3 areas of reading, writing and mathematics. Successful completion of the Core tests meets this requirement. You must successfully pass this test before the application deadline. Scores must be sent directly from ETS to UNL (institutional code 6877) and may take up to 6 weeks to be reported. It is preferable that you take the test 4-6 weeks before the application deadline so that your official scores can be included in your application.

You are allowed to re-take the CORE once within any calendar month. Please plan accordingly to allow adequate time.

Only completed application files will be considered for admission. It is the applicant's responsibility to be certain that all materials are submitted and received prior to the deadline dates.

Apply at go.unl.edu/gradapp.

Contacts

Faculty Contact

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