The discipline of English covers much ground, and graduate programs may focus on one or more subdisciplines. Texas State’s graduate English program serves students with many interests and needs by offering dozens of courses each semester on a wide variety of topics. Students may focus on a single element of English studies or they may combine elements. Many courses apply the most important current critical and theoretical approaches to the study of literature and the media, while others help promising poets and fiction writers to master those crafts. Some teach rhetorical skills to future expository writers and teachers of writing, while others cover the numerous kinds of writing demanded by rapidly changing technologies. Our integrative approach allows both for expansion of areas of study beyond a single emphasis and for the specialization that appropriately occurs at a university. Please go to the Programs tab for more specific information on our majors.

Financial Assistance
Graduate students in the M.A. programs may apply for appointments of up to two years as instructional or teaching assistants; students in the M.F.A. program may apply for appointments of up to three years. Instructional assistants have completed fewer than 18 graduate hours in English and have limited duties; teaching assistants have completed 18 or more hours in English and have a wider range of teaching duties. Assistants ordinarily have assignments in composition courses or surveys of literature. Applications are available from graduate program directors.

Graduate students may apply for a number of departmental scholarships, including the G. Jack Gravitt Scholarship, the William F. McKeen III Scholarship, the Peterson-Charles Mosley Scholarship, the W. Morgan and Lou Claire Rose Scholarship, and the Leonard and Elizabeth Wright Scholarship for Future Teachers. Contact a graduate program director for applications or additional information.

The Therese Kayser Lindsey Endowment for Literature
The Lindsey Endowment, dedicated April 11, 1978, is a gift of Mrs. Louise Lindsey Merrick to the Texas State University Foundation, made in memory of her mother, Therese Kayser Lindsey. A noted poet and patron of the arts, Mrs. Lindsey attended Southwest Texas State Normal School, completing her degree in 1905. She published four volumes of poetry and helped organize the Poetry Society of Texas.

The endowment, along with the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center, supports the mission of the department by sponsoring readings by distinguished writers and scholars such as Margaret Atwood, Sandra Cisneros, Junot Díaz, Rita Dove, Stanley Fish, Allen Ginsberg, Jorie Graham, Maxine Hong Kingston, Denise Levertov, Larry McMurtry, W.S. Merwin, N. Scott Momaday, Jayne Anne Phillips, Annie Proulx, Helen Vendler, Alice Walker, and Charles Wright.

Visiting writers and scholars often meet with graduate classes, attend question-and-answer sessions, and hold informal discussions with graduate students.

The University Endowed Chair in Creative Writing
The University Endowed Chair in Creative Writing brings distinguished writers annually to teach graduate writing workshops and to give public readings. Former chair holders include MacArthur Foundation Fellow Leslie Marmon Silko, National Book Award winning poet Ai, Pulitzer Prize finalist Barry Hannah, National Book Award winner Denis Johnson, American Book Award winner Li-Young Lee, National Book Award winner Robert Stone, and National Book Award winner Tim O’Brien, who is also a member of the M.F.A. program’s permanent faculty.

From Fall 2014 through Spring 2016, the chair holder will be National Book Critics Circle Award winner, Ben Fountain.

The Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center
Established in 2000, the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center is based in the childhood home of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author. The Center is host to numerous visiting writers each year. The house was dedicated as a National Literary Landmark in June 2002, by the Friends of Libraries USA and the Library of Congress.

Master of Arts (M.A.)
- Major in Literature (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/liberal-arts/english/literature-ma)
- Major in Technical Communication (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/liberal-arts/english/technical-communication-ma)
- Major in Rhetoric and Composition (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/liberal-arts/english/rhetoric-composition-ma)

Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)
- Major in Creative Writing (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/liberal-arts/english/creative-writing-mfa)

Minor
- Literature (http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/liberal-arts/english/literature-minor)