What “Becoming Extraordinary” means to us

Inspired for more than 150 years by the Franciscan values of individual dignity, community inclusiveness, and service, St. Bonaventure University cultivates graduates who are confident and creative communicators; collaborative leaders and team members; and innovative problem solvers who are respectful of themselves, others, and the diverse world around them.

That’s why we say our students are becoming extraordinary.

Why an M.A. in English at SBU makes sense

St. Bonaventure University’s M.A. in English offers financial support and unique opportunities — for those in the Academic Pre-Professional Track — for mentored classroom teaching experience. Students enjoy:

- small classes
- close collaboration with and advising from faculty
- and an excellent record of success in seeking employment or gaining admission to doctoral programs.

English Admission Requirements

- Transcripts from all undergraduate colleges.
- Demonstrated competency in reading Latin, French, German or Spanish. This requirement is usually fulfilled during the first semester of graduate work.
- Ample and successful undergraduate coursework in English, Comparative Literature, or related subjects. Most students enter with a B.A. in English or literature, but those who studied other disciplines are encouraged to apply.
- Two recommendations addressing the applicant’s ability to successfully undertake graduate study.
- Official scores from the (GRE) general test or a 10- to 12-page paper.
- Additional information (e.g. interview, writing sample) as may be requested by the program director.
English program requirements

St. Bonaventure offers two programs for those seeking a Master of Arts degree in English: a General Master’s Track, and an Academic Pre-professional Track in the form of a Learning/Teaching Fellowship (LTF).

The General Track is directed at students who are not planning to continue with graduate study at the Ph.D level. Students interested in pursuing careers outside of academia should consider this program of study.

The General Master’s Track will provide the minimum requirements and background for students interested in teaching at the community college level; however, the Pre-Professional track is recommended.

The Academic Pre-professional Track and LTF are specifically designed to optimize your academic and pre-professional preparation before you apply to the doctoral programs. In two years at SBU, you can get: an M.A. in English; college teaching experience; a 50 percent or greater tuition scholarship; and a $3,500 or greater annual stipend.

As a first-year (LTF) learning fellow, you’ll assist senior faculty with the teaching and grading demands of one of several introductory courses. As a second-year teaching fellow, you will go on to teach one or two of those courses under the guidance of tenure-track faculty.

Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of:
   - 30 credit hours in English graduate-level courses for the General Master’s Track. For more, go to General Master’s Track Requirements.
   - 36 credit hours (includes 6 thesis hours) for the Academic Pre-professional Track. For more, go to Academic Pre-professional Track Requirements.

For complete descriptions of all the English Graduate courses, click here.

2. A written comprehensive examination based on the English Graduate Reading List. For more, go to the Comprehensive Examinations page.

3. All students must pass an oral comprehensive examination — also based on the Reading List. Students writing a thesis will undertake the oral comprehensive exam as the thesis defense. For more, go to the Comprehensive Examinations page.

4. Learning/Teaching Fellows must complete a thesis for completion of the degree program. Academic Pre-professional Track students who are not Fellows may petition to write a thesis as part of their degree program. For more, go to Thesis Requirements.

“"The Teaching and Learning Fellowship is a huge deal at the master’s level. There are not many programs doing that anymore and it’s incredibly helpful in the Ph.D. application process.”

Megan Faver Hartline, M.A. 2013 • Read more on Megan’s affinity for the program
Q: How much are tuition and fees?
A: Graduate tuition for the 2013-2014 academic year is $690 per credit hour. However, other than a $5 fee for transcripts and a $100 fee for graduation, there are no additional required costs besides books and supplies. Graduate students have the option to purchase health insurance and SBU recreation center access. Housing and meal plans on the main campus are also available.

Q: Do I need to fill out the FAFSA?
A: Yes, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid — the same process you may have experienced for undergraduate financial aid — to receive the Graduate Stafford Loan. Since you will be a graduate student, you will fill out the FAFSA as an independent student. To learn more about filing the FAFSA, click here.

Q: I finish my bachelor’s in December and start my graduate studies in January. I already have a FAFSA filed as a dependent student for this year. What should I do?
A: Your filing status will need to be adjusted for your graduate study. Please contact the SBU financial aid office about this at 716-375-2528.

Q: Are other forms of aid available?
A: Many English graduate students benefit from Learning Teaching Fellowship or University Assistant support. Loan or aid programs are also available to help offset the cost of graduate school. For more information, click here.

Q: What campus and academic resources are available to graduate students?
A: From experienced advisers to full access to Friedsam Memorial Library, St. Bonaventure has a range of resources available to graduate students. The SBU Bookstore carries all required textbooks, and our Technology Services department will assist students in setting up email accounts and access for any online course offerings.