

Chapter 21 - Graduate Programs

College of Liberal Arts

Administration

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More information about the College of Liberal Arts can be obtained by writing to

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or by visiting the College of Liberal Arts web site:

<http://www.latech.edu/liberal-arts/>

Graduate Degrees Offered

Master of Arts

English
History
Speech
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Master of Fine Arts

Graphic Design
Photography
Studio Art
Interior Design

Admission Requirements

GRE scores are one factor used in evaluating applications for graduate studies in the College of Liberal Arts. Only after the GRE scores are received will the applicant receive the final review for admission to the relevant graduate program. As noted in the general admissions requirements for the Graduate School, students applying for graduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts must submit GRE scores at least four weeks prior to registration. In exceptional circumstances, that deadline may be extended but only to the end of the student's first quarter.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Plans

Academic units in the College of Liberal Arts differ in their thesis requirements. Some units do not require a thesis while other units have both thesis and non-thesis tracks. The thesis may be an academic thesis or combined academic/creative thesis, depending on the academic unit. Students should check with their academic unit about thesis options and guidelines for those theses, in addition to checking with the Graduate School about general thesis guidelines.

Division of Research

Louisiana Tech University is committed to quality in teaching, in research and creative activity, and in public service. The Division of Research in the College of Liberal Arts serves to promote research and creative activity by faculty and students. The main sources of research funds are federal and state agencies, private foundations, and industry.

School of Art and School of Architecture

Master of Fine Arts (MFA)

The Master of Fine Arts degree is offered by the School of Architecture and the School of Art and is designed for those interested in the creative aspects of the arts. The Master of Fine Arts degree is the recognized terminal degree for the visual artist. Work toward the Master of Fine Arts degree may be undertaken in four areas:

- Studio (2D or 3D) - School of Art
- Graphic Design - School of Art
- Photography - School of Art
- Interior Design - School of Architecture

Though distinct in character and professional goals, these programs complement and enrich one another. The programs are competitive, and interested students are encouraged to visit the campus to discuss their educational/career plans with the faculty.

Facilities

The School of Art occupied new facilities in the Spring of 1997. The 40,000 sq. ft. main structure houses a 3,000 sq. ft. gallery, a 100-seat auditorium, and two state-of-the-art computer labs. Other facilities include a 10,000 sq. ft. sculpture, woodshop, printmaking, and ceramic lab. Each graduate student is assigned to one of 48 private studios in another facility. These facilities are supplemented by visiting lecturers, film presentation, and workshops.

Accreditation

The School of Art Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The Master of Fine Arts in Interior Design degree is also accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Admission Requirements

Although the University accepts applications until 3 weeks prior to registration, this deadline, for a number of reasons, is not adequate for application to the MFA Program. The deadlines for entry into the MFA program are as follows:

- Fall Quarter Admission: May 1
- Winter Quarter Admission: 8 weeks prior to Winter Quarter Registration
- Spring Quarter Admission: 8 weeks prior to Spring Quarter Registration

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements for the Graduate School, an applicant must submit a slide portfolio that demonstrates a sufficient undergraduate art background. A Bachelor of Fine Arts for the School of Art or the Bachelor of Interior Design for the School of Architecture is the best preparation. However, students who do not possess these backgrounds are not discouraged from applying, but in general must expect some undergraduate background work or additional graduate level work in order to pursue their graduate program effectively.

Requests to begin the MFA Program in the Summer Quarter are not allowed because adequate evaluation and administration of new graduate students are not possible during this time.

The School of Art believes the growth of a student's knowledge of art is immeasurably enhanced through his/her association with other graduate students by sharing discussion and research on the variety of concerns in each discipline. All MFA candidates are therefore required to participate in a seminar experience during Fall and Winter Quarters. Seminars are conjoined with studio courses, and credit will be assessed based on the quality of the total work produced.

Transfer Credit

A maximum of 21 credit hours is eligible for transfer from another institution, contingent upon graduate committee review and approval. A candidate's status is subject to review at any time. At the conclusion of graduate study, the candidate is expected to present a one-person exhibition, or similar demonstration of his/her accomplishments, which is accompanied by a written and visual record.

Graduation

The candidate for the Master of Fine Arts must complete a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours. Additional course work beyond the 60-hour minimum may be required. A graduate committee, appointed for each student, shall review the qualifications of the student and set forth the courses required for the degree.

Financial Support

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. Graduate Assistants receive a stipend for the academic year (three quarters) and a waiver of out-of-state tuition, where applicable.

- The deadline for assistantship applications is April 1.
- The deadline for Department Assistantships is April 1
- The deadline for University Assistantships is February 1

Department of English

Master of Arts in English (MA)

The graduate program in English is designed to be thorough, comprehensive, and culturally broad. Graduates of the program typically go on to doctoral programs in English or pursue teaching careers at the high school or junior college level. Those students choosing the technical writing concentration often enter business and government. The Department of English maintains a collaborative electronic-learning agreement with University of Louisiana at Monroe and a cooperative agreement with Louisiana State University at Shreveport to provide graduate-level video

courses. Details of these agreements are available from the department office. The English Department offers a limited number of teaching assistantships awarded on a competitive basis.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School admission requirements, an applicant must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college. For unconditional admission, normally, a minimum of 24 hours must be in English. At least 12 of these 24 hours should be junior or senior-level course work. An applicant who does not meet these additional requirements may be admitted conditionally and required to take additional course work.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Plans

Plan A (Thesis): The student must complete a minimum of 33 hours of graduate credit in English, consisting of courses numbered 400 (for graduates and advanced undergraduates) and 500 (for graduate students only). Six of the 33 hours must be earned in Liberal Arts 551, Research and Thesis. In addition to the 6 thesis hours of Liberal Arts 551, the 33 hours must include at least 4 other 500-level courses exclusively for graduate students, one of which must be English 591. Finally, although a comprehensive examination is not given under Plan A, the student must pass a one-hour oral examination.

Plan B (Non-Thesis): The student must complete a total of 33 hours of graduate credit and pass a comprehensive written examination based on the course work taken for the degree. At least 6 of the required 11 courses must be at the 500 level (for graduate students only), one of which must be English 591. The remaining 5 courses may be taken either at the 500 level (for graduate students only) or at the 400 level (for advanced undergraduates and graduate students).

All English courses numbered 400 or above in the current Catalog, unless otherwise designated, are acceptable for graduate credit toward the degree of Master of Arts in English.

Department of History

Master of Arts in History (MA)

The graduate program in history is designed to train postgraduate students in the knowledge and skills necessary to the professional practice of history as preparation for further study (especially the Ph.D. in history), for employment or advancement in fields in which such skills are desirable, and for personal cultural enrichment. Combined with a teacher certification program, the MA in history is excellent preparation for teaching social studies at the secondary level. The Department of History maintains a collaborative agreement with the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a cooperative agreement with Louisiana State University at Shreveport. Details of these agreements are available from the department office.

The Department of History offers both thesis and non-thesis programs of study leading to the Master of Arts in History, with concentrations in Southern History, History of Culture and Ideas, History of American Foreign Policy. The major specialty concentrations in Southern History and the History of Culture and Ideas are offered under the collaborative agreement with the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Some courses related to these concentrations are taught by ULM faculty members who are also available to direct independent study experiences and to serve on thesis and examination committees. Individualized concentrations may be permitted with the approval of the graduate advisor and the graduate advisory committee.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the admissions requirements of the Graduate School, the applicant must have the equivalent of an undergraduate minor, or 21 semester hours, in history. A student wishing to pursue the

Master of Arts in history will elect a major specialty concentration, which will consist of at least 12 semester hours of thematically related course work chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Plans

The degree of Master of Arts in History may be completed under either Plan A (Thesis) or Plan B (Non-Thesis):

Plan A (Thesis): The thesis plan is recommended for the student who anticipates continuing graduate study beyond the Master of Arts degree. It may also be appropriate to the professional or personal goals of other students. The student must complete 30 semester hours of graduate credit, 6 hours of which will be given for successful completion of a thesis. The thesis course is Liberal Arts 551, Research and Thesis (3 semester hours credit), which may be repeated once for credit. At least 12 of the remaining 24 hours must be completed in 500-level courses open only to graduate students. History 505 is required of all students. The remaining courses may be taken either at the 500-level (for graduate students only) or at the 400-level (for advanced undergraduate and graduate students).

Plan B (Non-Thesis): This plan is intended primarily for the student who does not anticipate pursuing doctoral-level work in history following completion of the Master of Arts degree. The student will not prepare a thesis, but must pass a written examination in his or her area of major specialty concentration or other approved area of course work specialization. Also, the student must submit at least two substantial research papers prepared in 500-level courses for departmental approval as evidence of research and writing skills attained. The student must complete 33 hours of graduate credit in history, at least 18 of which must be completed in 500-level courses open only to graduate students. History 505 is required of all students.

Every candidate for the Master of Arts degree in History must pass an oral examination covering his or her entire program of study.

All history courses numbered 400 or above in the current Catalog of Louisiana Tech University, unless otherwise designated, are acceptable for credit toward the degree of Master of Arts with a major in history. Six hours of approved course work may be taken outside the discipline of history.

Financial Assistance

Graduate assistantships are available to qualified students on a competitive basis. Other forms of competitive assistance include the McGinty Graduate Fellowship, the Louise B. Johnson Graduate Scholarship, and the Morgan D. Peoples Graduate Scholarship.

Department of Speech

The Master of Arts in Speech (MA)

Graduate programs in the Department of Speech provide training and experience in the following concentration areas: Speech Communication, Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and Theatre. The student may choose a program of study which allows concentration in any one of these areas. All graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Speech Communication must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in research and writing. Such proficiency must be demonstrated in Speech 500: Introduction to Research. Speech courses numbered 400 or above in the current Catalog may be considered for credit toward the degree of Master of Arts with a major in Speech.

General Degree Requirements

Applicants who do not have an undergraduate major in one of the areas of Speech noted above are expected to satisfy any course deficiencies in the initial stages of their graduate program. The

graduate student in Speech must complete 36 semester credit hours. The student will follow one of two plans of study.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Plans

The degree of Master of Arts in Speech may be completed under either Plan A (Thesis) or Plan B (Non-Thesis):

Plan A (Thesis): Students must complete a minimum of 30 hours of graduate credit in Speech, or 24 hours in Speech and 6 hours in a related field, which are approved by his/her major professor and by the Head of the Department of Speech or the Director of the School of the Performing Arts.

Twelve of the required 30 hours must be in courses offered exclusively for graduate students (500-level), not including thesis courses. In addition, six hours of the total must be earned by taking for credit Liberal Arts 551: Research and Thesis and by completing an acceptable thesis. A written and an oral examination on all course work and the thesis are required.

Plan B (Non-Thesis): The requirements are the same as those under Plan A, except that the student will not write a thesis and will complete a minimum of 36 hours of graduate credit. Graduate credit, not to exceed six hours, may be earned in courses in fields related to Speech. Such credit must be approved by the student's advisor and the Head of the Department of Speech or the Director of the School of the Performing Arts. All graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, as well as Speech Communication, must demonstrate acceptable proficiency in research and reporting. Such proficiency must be demonstrated in Speech 500: Introduction to Research.

All speech courses numbered 400 or above in the Catalog are acceptable for credit toward the degree of Master of Arts in Speech.

Concentration in Speech Communication

The graduate program in Speech Communication offers students advanced study and scholarly research in applied organizational communication. With a goal of professional communication competency, the program allows the student to focus on the study of information flow within an organization and the impact of communication on individuals entering, working in, and exiting organizations. The combination of communication theory and applied course work is central to the graduate education experience.

Concentration in Theatre

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program includes formal application to the Louisiana Tech University Graduate School and campus audition/interview. (A video audition or interview off campus can be substituted). Official GRE scores are required.

Course Requirements

The graduate program concentration in Theatre (administered in the School of the Performing Arts) requires that students take 15 credit hours in a general core including Speech/Theatre 515, 518, 531, 533, and 536; 15 hours in an area of theatre concentration; and 6 hours in elective or related field courses, approved by the Director of the School of the Performing Arts.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Plans

Students pursuing the Master of Arts with theatre concentration will follow either Plan A or Plan B as outlined above in "Master of Arts in Speech: General Degree Requirements."

Admission Requirements

All prospective graduate students must meet the general admissions requirements of the Graduate School and those who do not have an undergraduate major in Speech Communication are expected to satisfy any course deficiencies in the initial stages of their graduate program. Graduate students in the speech communication emphasis will complete one of the two degree plans discussed above in "Master of Arts in Speech: General Degree Requirements."

Practica

All graduate students are required to complete practicum course work. Practica in speech communication are viewed as educational tools that provide meaningful professional experience related to the study of communication in organizational settings. Students are encouraged to schedule their practica in organizations and/or areas in which they would one day like to work (e.g., business and industry, higher education). The academic course work and practica are sequenced so that a student can normally fulfill the requirements for the Master of Arts in Speech Communication in two years. Speech communication course work is offered in organizational communication, research methods, communication theory, and special communication topics related to faculty and students' interests. Graduates can expect to work in a wide range of professions including human resources development, corporate communication, training and development, public relations, communication consulting, education, and other related fields.

Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (MA)

Professional Accreditation

The graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology are accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The purpose of accreditation is three-fold:

1. to promote excellence in the preparation of graduates to enter the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology through the development and implementation of standards of educational quality;
2. to protect and inform the public by recognizing programs that meet or exceed the educational standards; and
3. to encourage graduate programs to monitor and enhance the efficacy of their educational activities by means of continuous self-study and improvement.

Accreditation is limited to those graduate educational programs that prepare persons for entry into the professions.

Admission Requirements

Therefore, in addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the Graduate School, students seeking admission to the graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology must be recommended for admission to the graduate program by the graduate admissions committee of the Department of Speech. The committee evaluates each applicant based on grade point averages, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, letters of intent, and three letters of recommendation (at least one of which must come from a faculty member who taught the applicant in a communicative disorders course). The departmental graduate admissions committee may ask applicants to schedule personal interviews. Only those students who can demonstrate strong potential for completing all degree requirements are accepted into the program.

The graduate admissions committee will review only those applications that are completed by March 15. The committee's review process is completed by April 15, and applicants are notified accordingly. Students may enter the graduate program only in the Fall Quarter of each academic year.

Graduation

The minimum number of graduate semester hours required for the Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

is 36. However, students majoring in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology often have to take 40 or more semester hours in order to complete clinical practicum requirements. The student with an undergraduate degree in speech-language-hearing typically requires two years of fulltime study (including at least one summer) to complete all requirements for the degree. A student who does not hold an undergraduate degree in speech-language-hearing is expected to satisfy any course deficiencies in the initial stages of the graduate program. This is necessary in order for the student to meet the academic and clinical practicum certification requirements of the ASHA. All courses necessary to satisfy any deficiencies are offered in the Department of Speech. Graduate students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology will complete one of the two degree plans discussed above in "Master of Arts in Speech: General Degree Requirements."

Professional Certification

The academic course work and clinical practicum experiences are sequenced so that the student meets the academic and clinical training requirements for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in either audiology or speech-language pathology prior to graduation. All students in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology are required to meet the academic and clinical experience requirements set by the ASHA for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology prior to completion of the master's degree. Speech-language pathology course work is offered in adult and child language disorders, neurological disorders, phonology, stuttering, cleft palate, diagnostic procedures, speech science, voice disorders, and research methodology. Audiology course work is offered in hearing disorders, differential, pediatric, and industrial audiology, instrumentation and calibration, central auditory processing disorders, physiological tests of auditory function, hearing aids, aural rehabilitation, and research methodology. In addition to clinical practicum experiences obtained through the Louisiana Tech Speech and Hearing Center, located on campus, graduate students obtain practicum experiences in a variety of off-campus clinical sites in order to earn the clinical clock hours required for certification. Students should be aware that it is necessary that they be assigned to affiliated off-campus clinical training sites in order to earn the clinical clock hours required for certification. Each student will be responsible for transportation and his/her own expenses when assigned to one of these sites.

Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.)

The primary mission of the doctoral program in audiology (Au.D.) offered by the Department of Speech is to prepare students to enter the professional practice of audiology and to satisfy national certification requirements for a doctorate as the entry level degree to practice. The Au.D. may be earned by following a Post-Baccalaureate or a Post-Master's program of study. Information on admission requirements, program requirements, plans of study, residence requirements, assistantships, practicum training, dissertations, and comprehensive examinations is available from Dr. J. Clarice Dans, Head, Department of Speech, Louisiana Tech University, P.O. Box 3165, Ruston, LA 71272 (Phone 318-257-4764) and from the Department of Speech web site at <http://www.latech.edu/tech/liberal-arts/graduate-degrees.shtml>