

## Graduate Programs

The department's various graduate programs comprise nearly a third of the enrollment in IUP's School of Graduate Studies and Research. With well over 200 graduates at any given time, the department is proud to host a graduate student body who come not only from around the nation, but from around the world.

### **M.A. in English—Composition and Literature Program**

When it began accepting its first students in 2013, the M.A. in English Composition and Literature Program was the only program of its kind. It features an innovative, blended curriculum with coursework in both literature and composition studies, allowing graduates to pursue a variety of professional tracks, including teaching at the community college level, writing center administration, or further study on the doctoral level. The program offers a unique focus on pedagogy and teacher training. Students participate in colloquia and conferences set up by the English Graduate Organization and become involved with IUP's Center for Film Studies and its Digital Humanities Center.

### **M.A. in English—Literature Program**

The M.A. in English—Literature Program offers students a breadth of opportunities to study literatures written in or translated into English, from antiquity to contemporary times. The program introduces students to the fundamental tools of the profession, from academic writing, research, and publishing to conference participation. It fosters a community of scholars that challenges individuals to think deeply and critically about literature and film. Students take courses alongside doctoral students and work with a dedicated faculty. Evening and summer courses make the program accessible for teachers and other working professionals. Students also have opportunities to participate in colloquia and conferences organized by the English Graduate Organization, and to get involved with IUP's Center for Film Studies and its Digital Humanities Center.

### **M.A. TESOL Program**

The M.A. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Program focuses on theory-to-practice teacher preparation, empowering teacher-scholars to conduct their own individualized research and preparing them to excel in a variety of teaching roles, from community college classrooms to teaching abroad. It also provides excellent preparation for pursuing a doctoral degree in TESOL or related fields. The M.A. TESOL Program situates teaching English as an international language in its various contexts: social, cultural, historical, and political. During two semesters of courses, students work with program faculty in the classroom. They gain experience in several ways, including designing lesson plans and working hands-on with students in small groups. The program culminates in a thesis directed by a

committee of program faculty. Graduates of this program are uniquely qualified for a range of teaching experiences, at home or abroad, where they can expect to excel as both teachers and scholars in their field.

### **The Doctoral Program in Composition and TESOL**

The IUP doctoral program in Composition and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is one of the oldest and largest in the United States, and one of only a few programs in the world that give students the option of exploring first and second language literacy in English. Doctoral students in this program benefit from a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and research-based understanding of first and second language literacy instruction. With accomplished, international faculty in the fields of composition, TESOL, rhetoric, and applied linguistics, the program offers the unique experience of working across disciplinary lines and integrating research on language, literacy, culture, and writing.

The composition and TESOL doctoral curriculum is built on the concept of the teacher-scholar and promotes teaching practices that are informed by research. Doctoral students conduct innovative research projects, and become accomplished teacher-scholars known for their enthusiasm, teaching, and research-based publications. They enjoy careers as faculty members, literacy researchers, writing program directors, academic administrators, and expert consultants.

The program welcomes students who wish to explore the ever-widening contexts of literacy and language around the world and who recognize the importance, value, and beauty of literacy research and instruction. As in its sister doctoral program (below), a summers-only residency option is available to allow current teachers to complete their Ph.D. while maintaining employment in the United States or overseas.

### **The Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism**

The Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism emphasizes an integrative approach to the research and teaching of literary and cultural studies. Changes in the profession, including shifts in the canon, a new role for theory, and the increasing significance of digital humanities led, in 1987, to broad restructuring of the Literature and Criticism Program. It now emphasizes critical theory, the role of the critic in the transmission of a literary work, and the teaching of literary and cultural studies. Most university Ph.D. programs in literature emphasize the training of literary scholars for highly specialized positions in similar research universities. In contrast to such institutions, the IUP Literature and Criticism Program aims to integrate teaching and scholarship and to provide broad, generalist preparation as well as knowledge of specialized subfields.

The Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism has, therefore, been uniquely responsive to the 2014 *MLA Report of the Task Force on Doctoral Study*, which advocates for doctoral programs that stress the integration of teaching and scholarship, and hearkening back to the integrative teacher-scholar model enunciated in the 1990 Boyer Report. The current curriculum reinforces students' understanding of literature's historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. The Special Literatures section mirrors the acceptance of new literatures in the canon. The focus on scholarly skills in the seminars, alongside mentoring relationships with professors, assures that students acquire a professional competence in literature and critical theory.

A significant portion of students are already-employed faculty who complete their coursework through the summers-only option. The department's summers-only residency program is the only summer residential literature Ph.D. program in the United States. It is, therefore, uniquely equipped to meet the needs of the many contingent and non-tenure track faculty who otherwise might not have this important opportunity for further professional development and doctoral certification.

### **TESOL Graduate Certificate of Recognition Program**

Requiring 18 credits, the TESOL Graduate Certificate of Recognition Program broadly prepares students to teach English abroad. Masters-level core courses situate teaching English as a social, cultural, historical, and political endeavor in a variety of educational settings outside the United States.