Western Carolina University is an ideal setting for graduate studies. Tucked in a valley between the Blue Ridge and the Great Smoky mountains, the Cullowhee campus is one hour southwest of Asheville, North Carolina and three hours northeast of Atlanta, Georgia. Classes are also taught at our Biltmore Park instructional site in Asheville.

One of seventeen campuses in the University of North Carolina system, Western Carolina University enrolls more than 10,000 students annually, including nearly 1,700 graduate students. The university operates on a semester system.

The Graduate School first awarded degrees in 1952. Since that time, it has continuously broadened its programs and now offers graduate programs leading to nineteen master’s degrees in more than thirty areas, as well as three doctorate degrees and ten certificate programs.

Whether your goal is to jump-start your career, enhance your current skills, or make a career shift, one of our graduate programs may be just right for you.

Degree Options

MA in English
The MA in English provides broad training in English studies, with a concentration in one of three areas: literature, professional writing, and rhetoric and composition. Thesis or non-thesis options are available.

MAT in English
The MAT, an English Education degree, is designed to enable college graduates holding degrees other than education degrees to work toward NC licensure at the graduate level.

MAEd in English
The MAEd, an English Education degree, is for individuals with a BSEd in English who wish to become more professionally competitive.

Certificate in Technical and Professional Writing
This Certificate is designed for college graduates seeking advanced preparation in technical and professional writing for communication-based fields.
In our program, students receive individualized attention and have ample opportunity to interact and work with our graduate faculty. Our program is small enough to be personal, and our excellent facilities support a professionally active faculty and graduate student population.

We offer both variety and specialization, with courses available in Cullowhee and at Biltmore Park. Students can take courses in literature, creative writing, technical and professional writing, rhetoric and composition, and teaching theory and practice. Our program attracts a wide variety of students, ranging from teachers and other professionals living from Marion to Murphy, to aspiring scholars who plan to progress to the PhD. A graduate degree in English helps students prepare for a host of professional careers, including secondary level and community college teaching, writing and editing positions, jobs in publishing, research-intensive professions, law and library schools, and doctoral programs. Distinguished by small class size and expert faculty, our program emphasizes critical reading and research, creative thinking, and sophisticated writing.