

## **ASU's Department of English Degree Types**

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** A Doctor of Philosophy is a terminal degree in the field. Students demonstrate the ability to conduct original research as well as a mastery of scholarly methodologies, theories and tools of the discipline. Candidates must demonstrate that they can address a major intellectual problem and propose meaningful hypotheses.

**Master of Arts (MA):** A Master of Arts degree focuses on a specific field in the humanities, preparing students academically through research and discussion-based learning. These programs are not generally terminal in that students may advance from them into a doctoral program in the same or similar field.

**Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MTESOL):** A master's degree in a specific field is a professional degree preparing students to work in the field of that program. It is generally a terminal degree; however, students may still pursue a doctorate. The Master of TESOL (MTESOL) program (in-person or online) prepares students for professional jobs in teaching ESL (English as a second language)/EFL (English as a foreign language) through a combination of strong academic background in TESOL theories and practical experiences that emphasizes professional development and participation in the field. Note: **The MTESOL program does not offer certification to teach in US K-12 public schools.** For more information on certification to teach in the Arizona public school system, current students may contact the [Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College](mailto:GradEdPrep@asu.edu) at GradEdPrep@asu.edu. You may also want to view [ASU's licensure information](#) or [MLFTC's student success site](#). For other licensure requirements, please contact your state's Department of Education.

**Master of Fine Arts (MFA):** A Master of Fine Arts prepares students for a career in a specific creative area. It is generally a terminal degree; however, students may still pursue a doctorate.

**Master of Advanced Study (MAS):** A Master of Advanced Study is a professional degree with a focus on practical experience. It is generally a terminal degree; however, students may still pursue a doctorate.