USC Dornsife
Department of English

Literary & Editing Publishing

PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM

Explore the roles of editor and publisher, with an emphasis on literary nonfiction, by applying to our innovative progressive master's degree program in Literary Editing and Publishing. Current undergraduate students apply during their junior year and begin their graduate course work during their senior year—and earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in just five years.

Above:

"THE CAXTON CELEBRATION"

William Caxton is pictured using a printing press in this 1877 illustration. The Caxton Celebration commemorated the 400th anniversary of the first printed book in England.

The Graphic

Right:

JUNE 30, 1940

The late Frank C. Baxter, Professor of English, designed and demonstrated a miniature working model of a hand press similar to the one used by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century.

Los Angeles Times

INTRODUCTION

The Master of Arts degree in Literary Editing and Publishing combines academic study of writing, editing, and publishing with application of those studies. You will examine the roles of the author, editor, and publisher in your course work—and you will participate in hands-on workshops and practical internships.

You will learn from and contribute to the burgeoning literary publishing scene in Los Angeles. We draw upon the academic, technical, and professional expertise available in the English department, USC Dornsife, the university, and the greater L.A. community.

This master's degree is unique. It combines a literary education in the voices and rhythms of the best writers in the rich history of our culture with an active engagement in the practical elements that help realize any writer's intentions.

SINCE 1880
Allen's
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO
PORTLAND, ORE.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
TIMES
JUNE 30, 1940

PRINTING PRESS OF 15TH CENTURY—Dr. Frank Baxter of S.C. demonstrates his working model of an early 15th century hand press to Je[illegible]ne Hemrich.

Earliest Typing Methods Being Displayed on Campus

Working Miniature Model Hand Press Shows Way Gutenberg Printed Bible About 500 Years Ago

Featuring a working miniature model hand press made by Dr. Frank C. Baxter, professor of English and literature at the University of Southern California, an exhibit of Chinese blocks and movable type together with examples of early 15th century printing now is on display in the Edward L. Doheny Jr. Memorial Library building of the Trojan campus.

From studies of 15th century sketches showing the first presses following Gutenberg's Bible, Dr. Baxter designed the model of wood in his own shops. It prints a page of three inches in depth by one and one-half inches wide and is similar to the presses used up to the time of Benjamin Franklin.

NOTATION CARRIED

The model carries the notation: "On a press much like this Gutenberg printed his great Bible, Nicholas Jensen developed his golden type and Aldus Manutius created the perfect book."

The collection commemorates the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing with movable type by Gutenberg and will remain on display through the month of July.

To depict the history of printing the exhibit includes a carved wooden block formerly rubbed with charcoal for reproduction as well as a form of movable type used in China in 868 A.D. Hand-colored manuscripts done by scholarly monks with ruby dust and lapis lazuli in colorings, together with facsimile pages of the first Gutenberg Bible are also shown. Sixteen manuscripts are reproductions of Egyptian, Persian, Arabic and Mongolian peoples from the 11th the the 19th centuries, taken from the private collection of President Rufus B. von KleinSmid.

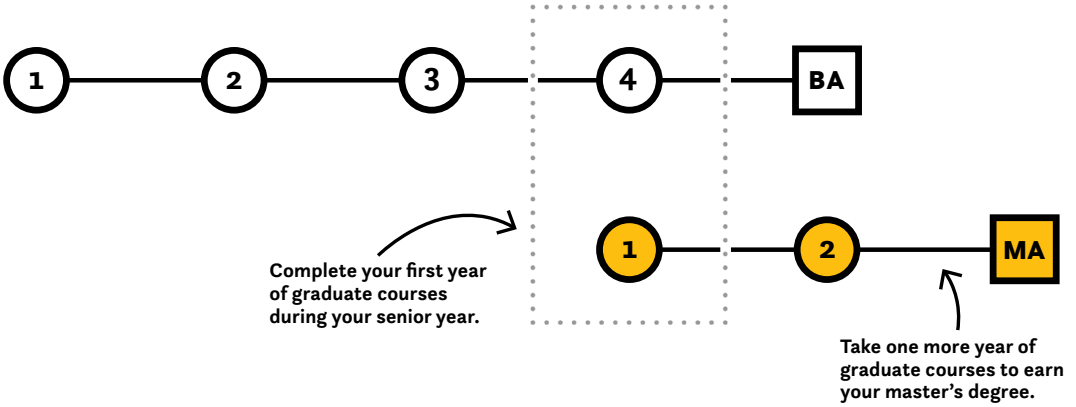
In addition to a collection of modern Pacific Coast publishers, the display includes 15th century printing by the Aldine Press of Venice and later works by the Kelmscott Press and William Morris as well as Koberger of Nuremburg.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Augmenting the displays is the fresco of the S.C. exhibit room which depicts the history of printing from prehistoric carvings on stone to the present day.

Exhibition hours to the public are given as 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

DESIGN



WHO IS THE M.A. IN LITERARY EDITING AND PUBLISHING FOR?

This program is designed for exceptional students with backgrounds in English Literature, Creative Writing, and Narrative Studies and lets you explore the roles of editor and publisher, emphasizing literary nonfiction. If the editor can be considered the "hidden coauthor," then learning to become an editor requires deep literary reading, the insights of creative writing, and the elements of editing and publishing. Students admitted to the program will have a love of writing and a love of bringing others' voices to the world.

This program will interest exceptional students in the sciences, the humanities, and the fine arts, but we recommend that you consider a minor in English, Narrative Structure, or Early Modern Studies.

This is a **progressive degree program**, which means you will start your master's degree course work during your senior (fourth) year of undergraduate study. At the end of your senior year, you'll finish your bachelor's degree. You'll complete the next year as a full-time graduate student and earn your Master of Arts degree in Literary Editing and Publishing.

FACULTY

The program draws upon the strength of the English department and the L.A. community. Our professors and writers who bring to the program their special expertise in editing and publishing include:

GEOFF DYER, Writer-in-Residence
ALICE GAMBRELL, Associate Professor of English
LAWRENCE D. GREEN, Professor of English
SUSAN GREEN, Lecturer
M.G. LORD, Assistant Professor of the Practice of English
BRIGHDE MULLINS, Professor of the Practice of English
CAROL MUSKE-DUKES, Professor of English
SUSAN SEGAL, Associate Professor (Teaching) of English
DAVID ST. JOHN, University Professor of English and Comparative Literature
DAVID L. ULIN, Assistant Professor of the Practice of English

Our faculty are the recipients of prestigious awards, are the writers of acclaimed publications, and have made countless contributions to their fields. Visit our website at **dornsife.usc.edu/engl** to learn more about their accomplishments.

COURSES

ENGL-601

Introduction to Literary Editing and Publishing

This seminar provides an overview of literary genres and publication practices in preparation for advanced study in later courses within the program. Materials will include representative works and a series of readings and conversations. Genres include fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry, and writing for stage and screen. Students will be introduced to the formal elements of these genres, and will practice writing short texts in each of these forms. Class time will be divided into lectures on the genres; seminar-style discussion of the texts; author visits; and workshop-style discussion of student work.

ENGL-602

Writers in the World: Text and Context

Explore editing and publishing within the tradition of literary and cultural influences on a wide range of authors, genres, and readers. You will embrace writing as an interaction, not a solitary activity but as our own small piece of a continuum.

ENGL-603

The Editorial Experience: The Craft of Publication

This intensive workshop in applied English coordinates literary analysis with editing and publication, including relationships with authors; academic and trade presses; editing, and design. Practice editing as a craft, learning how to discover an author's rhetorical and structural preferences, and explore techniques for combining editing, design, and production.

ENGL-604

The Nonfiction Experience: A Literary-Editorial Focus

Examine in depth and put into practice the concepts and techniques unique to specific genres of nonfiction, including profile writing, science writing, memoir, food writing, place and travel writing, and personal essay. You will work intensively with one genre of nonfiction, and learn skills that are transferable to all forms of nonfiction writing and flexible to a transforming publishing landscape.

COURSES (CONTINUED)

ENGL-607

Digital Publishing and Literary Writing for New Media

Compose, design, and fabricate electronic texts, prepare them for publication, and put them out into the world. Learn and analyze the formal, technical, and philosophical debates that have arisen as publication venues have expanded and evolved, and build a portfolio of work in multiple media that is informative and critically engaged.

ENGL-608

Publishing on Both Sides of the Transom

Unsolicited manuscripts were said to arrive at a publisher's office "over the transom"—over the small horizontal window above the door—to be found in a pile in the morning. Discover publishing on both sides of the electronic transom and cross the boundary from the author's point of view to the editor's, following a single piece of writing from manuscript to print or online publication.

ENGL-609a

Internship in Editing and Publishing: Eloquence

Work side-by-side with practicing writers in Los Angeles—in media outlets, in news bureaus, with web content creators, and literary agencies—and see how they transform the media landscape and react to its changes. Explore the real-life demands of your chosen industry and the effect of those demands on the direction of your own work.

ENGL-609b

Internship in Editing and Publishing: Ethics

Continue to work in the literary field in Los Angeles, and explore the idea of ethics in writing, editing, and publishing, with special attention to issues significant to nonfiction, film, and fiction.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

SENIOR YEAR / FIRST YEAR OF MASTER'S PROGRAM	
FALL	**SPRING**
ENGL-601 "Introduction to Literary Editing and Publishing"	ENGL-602 "Writers in the World: Text and Context"
SECOND YEAR OF MASTER'S PROGRAM	
FALL	**SPRING**
ENGL-603 "The Editorial Experience: The Craft of Publication"	ENGL-607 "Digital Publishing and Literary Writing for New Media"
ENGL-604 "The Nonfiction Experience: A Literary-Editorial Focus"	ENGL-608 "Publishing on Both Sides of the Transom"
ENGL-609a "Internship in Editing and Publishing: Eloquence"	ENGL-609b "Internship in Editing and Publishing: Ethics"

28 UNITS REQUIRED

The program requires a minimum of 28 units of sequential course work (in addition to the minimum 128 units for your bachelor's degree). You will enroll in four units of graduate course work each semester of your fourth year of undergraduate study (your senior year) and at least ten units each semester of your fifth year.

BUILT ON LITERARY FOUNDATION

The graduate course work builds on a strong foundation in English literature, creative writing, and narrative studies.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

The master's degree replaces the traditional academic thesis with a year-long internship under the guidance of program faculty. Students will pursue internships at places such as *Los Angeles Review of Books*, NPR West, *Los Angeles Magazine*, and BuzzFeed.

B.A. + M.A. IN 5 YEARS

The progressive degree program allows an exceptional group of students to earn their bachelor's degree and master's degree in five years. You graduate with two distinct degrees.

APPLY

Applications are accepted for admission to start graduate classes in the fall semester of your senior (fourth) year. You should apply for the program during the **spring semester of your junior (third) year**.

Students interested in applying to the progressive degree program in Literary Editing and Publishing should contact the English department's undergraduate student coordinators for an application packet and for advisement.

Notifications of admission are made in late spring.

GPA	3.3 minimum	**GRE**	Not required
Educational background	64 units completed minimum (but no more than 96)	**Transcripts**	Not required
	Completed course work in English literature and creative writing	**Fee**	None
Deadline	During the spring semester	**Where is the application?**	Contact the Department of English for packet
Required materials	**Application for Admission to a Progressive Master's Program** Two letters of recommendation from USC faculty *(at least one from a faculty member in the English department)* STARS report Proposed course plan Statement of purpose A writing sample of 10-15 pages, which may be critical or creative Resume		

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many students are accepted to the Literary Editing and Publishing program?
The program admits a small class of exceptional students each year.

How will I find out if I have been admitted?
Applicants will be notified of admissions decisions in late spring.

What classes should I take if I am interested in applying to the program in the future?
The English department offers many undergraduate courses in nonfiction, editing, contemporary prose, and creative writing that provide a strong foundation for interested students. Students who do not have a major in the Department of English may consider one of our minor programs.

Am I eligible to apply for financial aid for the master's degree in Literary Editing and Publishing?
Yes. The USC Financial Aid Office can provide guidance for applying for financial aid. Progressive degree students are classified as undergraduate students until their undergraduate degree is conferred or they complete 144 units, whichever comes first. AP, IB, and A-level exam credit is included in the total number of completed units for financial aid purposes.

Are teaching assistantships or fellowships available for master's students in Literary Editing and Publishing?
No. The English department does not offer fellowships or teaching assistantships for master's students in Literary Editing and Publishing at this time.

What kinds of internships will students pursue in ENGL-609ab?
Students will pursue internships with practicing writers in L.A. across many industries—in media outlets, in news bureaus, with web content creators, and literary agencies. Students will work closely with faculty to initiate and facilitate their internships. During the internship, faculty will provide mentorship to help students navigate their experience. Most students will complete two different internships, one each semester of their final (fifth) year.

Do I need to be an English Literature, Creative Writing, or Narrative Studies major to apply?
No. Students pursuing bachelor's degrees at USC in any major or school are eligible for admission into the program. However, it is recommended that you complete course work in literature and creative writing prior to applying. Additional course work may be required for students without previous substantial course work in these fields.

How is a progressive degree different from a traditional master's degree?
While most traditional master's degrees require at least two years of course work, progressive degree programs allow exceptional undergraduate students to begin their master's course work while finishing their undergraduate degree. This means that the time required is reduced to allow students to complete both degrees in as little as five years. At the end of the progressive degree program, you will have earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree.

If I'm a transfer student, am I eligible to apply to the progressive degree program?
Because students must have completed course work at USC and not have completed more than 96 units of undergraduate course work overall, students who transfer after their sophomore year (with 64 units completed) are ineligible to apply. Students who transfer after their freshman year (with 32 units completed) are eligible to apply during their junior year.

F.A.Q. (CONTINUED)

Can I apply to this program after completing my bachelor's degree?
Only current undergraduate students pursuing their bachelor's degrees at USC are eligible to apply to the master's degree program in Literary Editing and Publishing.

Is there an application fee for the progressive degree program?
There is no application fee.

Do I need to take the GRE?
You do not need to submit GRE scores to apply to the progressive degree program.

Can my undergraduate degree requirements be reduced if I'm admitted to the progressive degree program?
No. Students must complete all degree requirements for their undergraduate program. Undergraduate degrees at USC require a minimum of 128 units. The master's degree in Literary Editing and Publishing requires a minimum of 28 units.

Are there any classes I can take to count toward both my bachelor's degree and the master's degree?
No. The 28 units required for the master's degree in Literary Editing and Publishing can count only toward the master's degree requirements.

Can I apply as a freshman or a sophomore in order to guarantee my admission to the program early?
No. Only students who have completed at least 64 units of undergraduate course work (excluding units earned before graduating high school, such as AP or IB exam units) are eligible to apply.

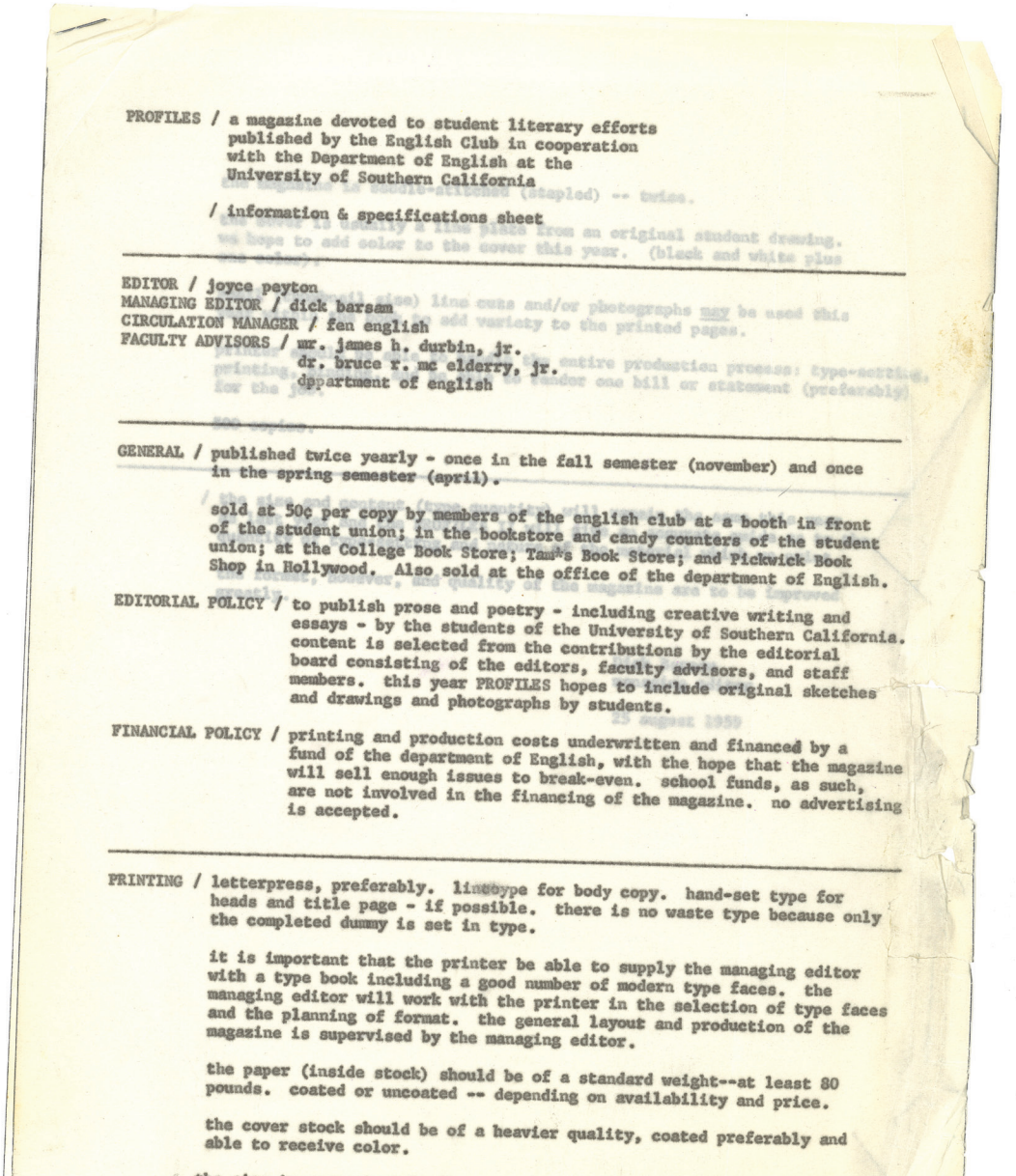
Whom should I talk to if I'm interested in applying to the progressive degree program?
Students should talk to the undergraduate advisers in the Department of English and to the program director.

Below:

PROFILES, 1960

The information and specifications sheet for the student-run literary magazine *Profiles* includes the magazine's editorial policies and printing instructions.

Departmental archives



PROFILES / a magazine devoted to student literary efforts
published by the English Club in cooperation
with the Department of English at the
University of Southern California

/ information & specifications sheet

EDITOR / joyce peyton
MANAGING EDITOR / dick barsam
CIRCULATION MANAGER / fen english
FACULTY ADVISORS / mr. james h. durbin, jr.
dr. bruce r. mc elderry, jr.
department of english

GENERAL / published twice yearly - once in the fall semester (november) and once in the spring semester (april).

sold at 50¢ per copy by members of the english club at a booth in front of the student union; in the bookstore and candy counters of the student union; at the College Book Store; Tam's Book Store; and Pickwick Book Shop in Hollywood. Also sold at the office of the department of English.

EDITORIAL POLICY / to publish prose and poetry - including creative writing and essays - by the students of the University of Southern California. content is selected from the contributions by the editorial board consisting of the editors, faculty advisors, and staff members. this year PROFILES hopes to include original sketches and drawings and photographs by students.

FINANCIAL POLICY / printing and production costs underwritten and financed by a fund of the department of English, with the hope that the magazine will sell enough issues to break-even. school funds, as such, are not involved in the financing of the magazine. no advertising is accepted.

PRINTING / letterpress, preferably. linotype for body copy. hand-set type for heads and title page - if possible. there is no waste type because only the completed dummy is set in type.

it is important that the printer be able to supply the managing editor with a type book including a good number of modern type faces. the managing editor will work with the printer in the selection of type faces and the planning of format. the general layout and production of the magazine is supervised by the managing editor.

the paper (inside stock) should be of a standard weight--at least 80 pounds. coated or uncoated -- depending on availability and price.

the cover stock should be of a heavier quality, coated preferably and able to receive color.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

USC DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

USC Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
3501 Trousdale Parkway
Taper Hall of Humanities 404
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0354
(213) 740-3725
dornsife.usc.edu/engl/leap

STAFF ADVISERS

Tim Gotimer
gotimer@usc.edu

Laura Hough
lhough@usc.edu

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Professor Brighde Mullins
bmullins@usc.edu

DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Professor Lawrence D. Green
lgreen@usc.edu

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Professor David St. John
dstjohn@usc.edu

USC University of Southern California