PROGRESSIVE DEGREE PROGRAM APPLICATION
Literary Editing and Publishing (M.A.)

USCDornsife
Department of English

Fall 2025		
APPLICATION TERM	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME
	@usc.edu	
USC ID	EMAIL	PHONE

Admission Requirements

This is a PDP, or progressive degree program. This means you may start graduate classes in the fall semester of your senior (fourth) year. If you want to choose this option, you should apply for the program during the spring semester of your junior (third) year.

The all-student deadline to apply for Fall 2025 admission to the progressive degree program is **Monday, March 10, 2025, 11:59pm.**

Beginning academic year 2023-2024, current seniors are also eligible to apply. Seniors wishing to apply may apply by the March 10, 2025 date or choose the **senior-only early action deadline of Monday, December 9, 2024, 11:59pm.** An early action application does not commit a student, if accepted, to enroll in the program; it merely offers an earlier notification of results.

Applicants must have a **3.3 minimum GPA** and have completed **64 units** of college course work after high school graduation.

Pre-requisites: *ENGL 300 or ENGL 310

***For extenuating circumstances, please contact Professor Mullins (LEAP Director) at bmullins@usc.edu to discuss your situation.**

A completed application includes:

- A course plan, completed with your advisor (see pgs 3-4)
- Two letters of recommendation from USC faculty (see pgs 6-7 to complete cover sheets, LORs themselves submitted by faculty via email)
- A copy of your STARS Report (attach file)
- A statement of purpose (500 words) (attach file)
- Preparatory courses comments (see pg 2)
- Essay prompt response (500- 750 words) (see pg 2, but attach file)
- A writing sample of 7-10 pages, which may be critical or creative (attach file)
- A resume (attach file)

Please email the complete application to english@usc.edu and bmullins@usc.edu, subject line: LEAP Application.

MAJOR	IF APPLICABLE, SECOND MAJOR/MINOR(S) (note whether maj or min)		USC GPA	UD MAJOR GPA
	IP	Done IP	Done IP	
WRIT-150/CORE-111 GRADE	WRIT-340/CORE-112 GRADE	FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQ.	GENERAL EDUCATION REQ.	

Letters of Recommendation

We require two letters of recommendation from faculty members in English or a closely related discipline (comparative literature, journalism, American studies, French literature, etc.). Full time LEAP Faculty (Professors Mullins, Ulin, and Lord) are not permitted to write letters on behalf of students who are applying to the program, as it creates a conflict of interest. Please indicate which faculty will be submitting your letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation are to be sent to english@usc.edu and bmullins@usc.edu, subject line: LEAP LOR (Student's Name).

FACULTY NAME	DEPARTMENT	EMAIL ADDRESS

Financial Aid for Progressive Degree Candidates

Progressive Degree students are classified as undergrad students (read: eligible for undergrad aid) until their undergrad degree is conferred or they complete 144 units (combined undergrad and grad), whichever comes first. AP, IB, and A-level exam credit is included in the total number of completed units for financial aid purposes. By signing below, you verify that you have read about this and the other PDP policies explained on the following reference page: https://academicprograms.usc.edu/services/curriculum/progressive-degree-programs/

STUDENT SIGNATURE	DATE

Course History

Please list courses that you have taken that have prepared you to become a candidate for the progressive degree program in Literary Editing and Publishing.

DEPARTMENT	COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	SEMESTER	GRADE

Comments

From the courses listed above please describe **how** two of those courses have provided preparation for the LEAP program:

Essay Prompt (500-750 words):

Write about a formative moment in your life that divided it into before and after. Attach your essay to your application.

Contact Information

USC Department of English
3501 Trousdale Parkway
Taper Hall of Humanities 404
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0354

Program Director: Brighde Mullins
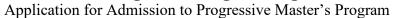
bmullins@usc.edu

Staff Contact: english@usc.edu

What happens next?

The admissions committee carefully evaluates all applications for the progressive degree program. All students will be notified of admissions decisions one to two months after the deadline, and students admitted to the program will be granted D-clearance to register for **ENGL-601** and **ENGL-606a.**

Students will be notified if their applications are incomplete and will be asked to submit the missing material.

USC Progressive Degree Program
Application for Admission to Progressive Master's Program

Enter all remaining requirements for the bachelor's degree and all master's degree requirements chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor. This information will be used to create your master's program STARS report if your application is accepted. In addition to the master's courses identified on the course plan, all other requirements for Master's degree completion must be satisfied/waived on the STARS report. Submit this application to the graduate department with supplemental materials as required for admission.

Printed name of student (Last)   (First)   (Middle)

USC ID Number   Email address   Phone Number

Current Major(s)/Minor(s)   USC GPA   Units Completed

Proposed Master's Program   Proposed Admit Semester/Year

Department/School   Expected Graduation Semester/Year

Proposed Course Plan

List courses and units to be taken to fulfill all remaining degree requirements on your STARS Report at the time of application. ***Exact*** courses must be listed for each master's core requirement; electives may be listed as "graduate degree elective". Elective coursework can be decided later by the student with approval from their graduate program advisor.

- **Begin with the current semester**. If this is a revised course plan, begin with the term in which the first master's course was or will be completed.
- Check "UG" for courses to be taken to fulfill bachelor's requirements; check "GR" for courses to be taken for the master's degree.
  Only ONE box (UG or GR) should be checked for each course.
- The Proposed Course Plan must be agreed upon and approved by the student, and *both* the Undergraduate and Master's Departments

	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					
	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					
	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					

Proposed Course Plan Continued…

	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					
	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					
	Dept. Prefix - Course #	UG	GR	Course Title	Units
Semester/Year					
Total Units					

❑ This is the original course plan submitted with the program application; all signatures below are required.

❑ This is a REVISED course plan for an existing approved program; only the impacted degree program signatures and student signatures below are required.

To be completed by the Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate course sequencing listed on this course plan is:

❑ *Recommended*   ❑ *Not Recommended*

_____
Major Department/School   Date

_____
Undergraduate Academic Advisor's Signature   Printed Name

The undergraduate course sequencing for a second major listed on this course plan is (if applicable):

❑ *Recommended*   ❑ *Not Recommended*

_____
Major Department/School   Date

_____
Undergraduate Academic Advisor's Signature   Printed Name

First College Term (Sem/Yr): _____   Master's Program Post code: _____

Total units *required* for the master's program: _____   Minimum progressive degree units required for graduation: _____

Semester/Year in which 144 total units will be completed: _____   Total semesters of registration after completion of 144 units: _____

Semester and Year of Progressive Degree Completion: 2/3 500-level requirement is met based on proposed plan: Yes   No

The Proposed Course Plan has been agreed upon and approved by the Master's Departments.

_____
Master's Program Academic Advisor's Signature   Printed Name   Date

By signing on the line below, I confirm that I have read and reviewed the [Program Requirements](#) and understand how they apply to my specific situation.

1. I have reviewed the semester/year in which 144 total units will be completed.
2. I understand that I will transition to graduate student status (including tuition rates and eligibility for USC Financial Aid) as soon as any of the following occurs:
    a. I complete 144 total units
    b. My first bachelor's degree is conferred
    c. I receive a research or teaching assistant award
3. I will be subject to undergraduate academic progress standards while in undergraduate status and master's academic progress standards while in graduate status.
4. My degrees may be awarded in the same semester, but my master's degree cannot be awarded before the undergraduate degree.
5. The time limit for completing a progressive degree program is 12 semesters (6 years) beginning from the first term of any college enrollment, including any semesters of non-enrollment*.
6. I may complete only one master's degree as part of the progressive degree program.
7. (For F-1 or J-1 international students) I have conferred with the Office of International Services regarding my immigration status. I understand that if additional time is needed to complete the master's portion of my program, I must apply for a Program Extension before my current Form I-20 or DS-2019 expires.
8. Upon admission, I will make certain my undergraduate expected graduation date aligns with this course plan.

*Transfer students whose transfer coursework extends beyond this timeline may have their coursework evaluated for semester-equivalency by the admitting master's program.

I hereby apply for admission to the Progressive Master's Degree Program. My Proposed Course Plan is attached and has been approved by my undergraduate and master's program advisors.

Student Signature: _____   Date: _____

Based on the Proposed Course Plan and additional documentation, the student is:

❑ *Recommended for Admission*   ❑ *Not Recommended for Admission*

_____
Master's Program Admissions Department Signature   Printed Name   Date

The department liaison should process the approved Application in SIS by adding the PoST code and sending electronic copies of all supporting documents to ESD ImageViewer.

Department Liaison SIS Initials Code: _____

_____
Date documentation shared to ESD/Image Viewer   Date PoST Added in SIS

USC Progressive Degree Program
Recommendation Form

Instructions for student: Fill in the top portion of this form and present it to your recommender.

Instructions for faculty: Return this form to the department coordinator listed below.

Department coordinator for application   **(Please type or print)**   Coordinator's email address

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Printed name of student (Last)   (First)   (Middle)

Department to which you are applying   Email address

❑ I waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation.

❑ I do NOT waive my right to inspect the contents of the following recommendation.

Student Signature: _____   Date: _____

Recommender Section: Please write candidly about the student's qualifications and potential to pursue advanced study in the field specified.

MA - LEAP:
Please comment on the student's skills in writing and editing - this may include their workshop critiques and verbal feedback.
Please comment on the student's level of engagement in class. This includes how much they participate in class activities and discussion as well as their attention to their peers' contribution to class.

LOR Deadline: December 9, 2024 (senior-only early action) or March 10, 2025
Letters of recommendation are to be sent to english@usc.edu and bmullins@usc.edu,
subject line: LEAP LOR (Student's Name).

Admission to Progressive Degree Program is:

❑ Strongly recommended   ❑ Recommended   ❑ Recommended with reservations   ❑ Not recommended

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Signature   Printed Name   Date

USC Progressive Degree Program
Recommendation Form

Instructions for student: Fill in the top portion of this form and present it to your recommender.

Instructions for faculty: Return this form to the department coordinator listed below.

_____ _____
Department coordinator for application   Coordinator's email address

(Please type or print)

_____ _____
Printed name of student (Last)   (First)   (Middle)

_____ _____
Department to which you are applying   Email address

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❑ Strongly recommended   ❑ Recommended   ❑ Recommended with reservations   ❑ Not recommended

_____   _____   _____
Signature   Printed Name   Date