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Cornell University Department of English  
**Ph.D. Program Application Requirements Summary**  
(these include the Graduate School's requirements)

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**APPLICATION AND FEE**

**Deadline is December 15.** All applications, writing samples, personal statements, and fees must be submitted on-line at <http://www.gradschool.cornell.edu/index.php?p=>. Data may be saved and edited until the application is submitted, at which time no changes may be made.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

A one- or two-page single-spaced statement, uploaded within the application, covering the reasons the applicant is undertaking graduate work and explaining his/her academic interests as they relate to his/her undergraduate study and professional goals.

**THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Recommenders should upload letters via an email link generated by the applicant in the Recommendation section of the application. The email link is sent when the recommenders' information is input, not when the application is submitted, and will be electronically attached to the application whether the application is in process or submitted. Letters produced in hard copy may be mailed directly to the department at the address below and should be accompanied by the General Recommendation Form available for download from the Supplemental Forms section of the application. Letters mailed to the department by a credential service (such as Interfolio) do not require the General Recommendation Form.

**TRANSCRIPTS**

One official copy from the institution at which the applicant is currently enrolled and from all institutions attended should be sent directly to the department at the address below. Transcripts from institutions whose courses were transferred are not required if the courses are reported on the receiving institution's transcript.

**TOEFL**

Applicants whose native language is not English must take the TOEFL and have the official score reported to Cornell from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Only students who have studied full-time for two or more years at a college or university where English is the language of instruction located in a country where English is the native language are exempt from the TOEFL. Graduate School has set the following minimum scores for admissions: Writing: 20; Listening: 15; Reading: 20; Speaking: 22.

**GRE GENERAL TEST**

Scores must be reported to us directly from ETS, and may not be over 5 years old. The GRE codes are: Institution: 2098; Creative Writing: 2503; English Language and Literature: 2501. Official GRE scores are accepted after the December 15 deadline from those applicants **whose applications were submitted on time**. Applications will not be fully considered, however, until the department has received the scores. Scores alone do not determine admissibility and the department does not have a minimum score requirement.

**GRE SUBJECT TEST in ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

Same as above

**CRITICAL WRITING SAMPLE**

The sample must be between 3,000 and 7,500 words (12-30 pages), typed and double-spaced, with the applicant's name either at the top or bottom of every page. (Longer samples are acceptable if the applicant indicates the pages to be considered in the range required.) Applicant's name must be at the top or bottom of every page, and uploaded within the application.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Application status and receipt of transcripts and letters are not reported via the on-line application, however applicants will be notified should any portion of their application be missing. Applicants should not postpone submitting an application while the delivery of supporting materials is in pending. All materials received by mail will be held in the applicant's file and compiled when the electronic application and letters are submitted.