Table of Contents
Course Work 1
Degree Plans 2
Plan of Work 2
Language Requirement (MA Plan B Essay) 2
Capstone Projects 4
Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships 5
Satisfactory Academic Progress 7
Grade Appeals 7
Other Appeals 8
Exceptions 8
Time Limitation 8
Leaves of Absence 8
University Requirements 9
Continuation to the Ph.D. Program 9
Course Distribution Checklist 10
Appendix A – M.A. Program Learning Outcomes 11
Appendix B – Graduate Course Learning Outcomes 12

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M. A. PROGRAM IN ENGLISH

The M.A. program is designed to prepare students to go on to doctoral work as well as to accommodate students with specific interests (e.g., Creative Writing, teaching English at the secondary, college, or university levels) that may not lead to further graduate study in English. The M.A. program thus serves students with a variety of interests and aspirations and its educational resources are meant to accommodate a diverse constituency.

NOTE: Students should be advised that the full descriptions of university rules are to be found in the current Graduate Bulletin. The following description covers the Department of English's procedures and some, but not all, of those of the university. In cases where this Handbook departs from relevant sections of the Graduate Bulletin, the Department of English By-Laws and/or the Collective Bargaining Agreement between WSU and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers, then those documents will prevail.

REQUIREMENTS

Course Work
The M.A. program requires 33 semester hours of course credit, which must include at least five 7000-level courses in English at Wayne State University. The remaining course work may be distributed among 5000-, 6000-, and 7000-level courses, selected with the advice of the Director of Graduate Studies. Creative writing students fulfilling the M.A. concentration in creative writing must take English 6800 (which counts as a 7000 level course). (NOTE: As 5000-level courses in our department and many others in the university can also be taken for undergraduate credit, be advised that you are required to document the additional requirements that apply to graduate students in such courses.)

Students with special interests, such as Rhetoric and Composition, Creative Writing, Film and Media studies, or Linguistics, should expect to take around one half of the total credit hours in that area, with the rest of the course work coming from other areas. Students interested in Creative Writing or Technical/Professional Writing are strongly urged to consult appropriate faculty as well as the Director of Graduate Studies to plan the course of studies.

With special permission from the Director of Graduate Studies, up to 6 credit hours may be taken from another department (permission is contingent upon the student’s demonstrating the relevance of such course work to his/her program). Up to 8 graduate credits can be transferred from another university as long as those credits have not already counted towards an earned graduate degree.
**Degree Plans**
The M.A. in English may be completed under any one of three different degree plans as designated in the Wayne State Graduate Bulletin.

- **Plan A**: Thirty-three credits, including a three-to-six-credit thesis.
- **Plan B**: Thirty-three credits, including a three-credit essay and demonstration of proficiency in at least one foreign language if required by the academic adviser (for further details, see “Language Requirement,” below).
- **Plan C**: Thirty-three credits, including a portfolio of representative work approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Because the requirements between the plans differ, students should decide as soon as possible and no later than the submission of their Plan of Work (see below) which degree plan they intend to follow.

**Plan of Work**
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requires that students submit a Plan of Work in the semester in which they will complete 10 hours of course work. The Plan of Work is then submitted to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Office for approval. The Plan of Work includes courses already taken and those that will be taken to complete the degree. It is devised in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies. *(NOTE: Until the Plan of Work is approved, students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies during the registration period for each semester; although such regular consultation is not necessary after the Plan of Work has been established and approved, students are encouraged to consult with the Director to determine progress towards the M.A. degree.)*

**Language Requirement (Plan B Only)**
M.A. students following Plan B must fulfill a language requirement if required to by their academic adviser. If the student does not yet have a faculty academic adviser (director of the M.A. Essay), then she or he will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies. The language requirement is defined as an adequate reading knowledge of one language other than English. In the same semester in which he or she files her Plan of Work, students must also submit to the DGS an explanation (Petition for the Language Requirement) of how they will satisfy it and the relevance of this plan to their general program of study, in particular the planned Essay topic and further plans for graduate study. If the student, with approval of an academic adviser or the DGS, will not pursue the language requirement, then the petition must still be filed and a waiver granted. The petition on file by the end of the second semester or in the semester that the student reaches 15 credit hours of study will be considered final for the degree unless the student changes to another Plan. Reading proficiency in the selected language may be demonstrated through examination or coursework (outlined below).
Any graduate coursework (5000-level or above) needed for this requirement should appear on the Plan of Work. Graduate credits earned in another department may apply to the 33 hours required for the M.A. in English, although they will also count toward one of two courses a student may take in other departments during their degree.

M.A. students who need to meet the requirement will ordinarily fulfill it by choosing one of four options:

1. Arrange to take a translation examination administered by an appropriate individual. The examiner and test must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. *(NOTE: this is the preferred option.)*

2. Pass the ETS (Educational Testing Service) CLEP examination in a language other than English with a score of 55 or better.

3. At least two semesters of coursework in a language other than English at the undergraduate level with grades of B or better and one non-translated literature course or an intensive language course the level of which is determined by placement exam (e.g. FRE 5000 for 3 credits or more) with a grade of B or better in the same language. *(Any undergraduate coursework that must be taken will not count toward the M.A. degree; this coursework may have been taken during the student’s Bachelor’s degree program.)*

4. One semester of Old English with the grade of B or better. This instruction may be delivered either through coursework or by directed study.

Students who either obtain a waiver of the language requirement or fulfill it at the M.A. level and who continue in the Ph.D. program in English at Wayne State will have to submit a new language requirement petition for that program.

Students considering applying for Ph.D. programs here and elsewhere are strongly encouraged to fulfill the language requirement through one of the methods outlined above in order to strengthen their future application.
Capstone Projects
The final requirement for the M.A. degree under all plans is the submission of a capstone project: an M.A. Essay, M.A Thesis, or M.A. Portfolio. In order to obtain permission to register for any relevant credits, students should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies and fill out the appropriate Authorization and Description Form for the project at least one semester before they plan to complete it.

A. The M.A. Thesis (Plan A). The M.A. Thesis is ordinarily restricted to creative writing students and may be composed of one or more works of fiction (including poetry and plays) or creative nonfiction. Like the essay, students who write an M.A. thesis also secure a faculty advisor and second reader who oversee his or her project and who must approve the thesis in order for the student to complete the M.A. degree. Students pursuing the M.A. Thesis must likewise submit the appropriate authorization form to the Director of Graduate Studies before registering for ENG 8999 (3-6 credits).

Students pursuing a 3 credit hour thesis will generally produce 40-50 pages of prose or a chapbook-length poetry manuscript (approximately 36 poems). Students pursuing a 6 credit hour thesis will generally produce 100-150 pages of prose (a short story collection, a novella, a cycle of plays) or a full-length poetry manuscript (above 48-80 poems). The time devoted to the thesis should not exceed one year.

B. The M.A. Essay (Plan B). The M.A. Essay is a 30-60 page research-intensive work of scholarly writing done under the supervision of a faculty advisor and a second reader of the student’s choice. Students taking this option must submit the appropriate authorization form to the Director of Graduate Studies with their readers’ signatures before registering for ENG 7999 (3 credits).

The M.A. Essay should demonstrate the student’s ability to handle primary and secondary source material, to employ standard scholarly documentation techniques, and to present a clearly written and cogent discussion of a topic currently of interest to the profession. The time devoted to the essay should not exceed one semester.

C. The M.A. Portfolio (Plan C). The M.A. Portfolio consists of:

(1) a minimum of 60 pages (or the equivalent in multimedia) of your best, assigned work from graduate courses satisfying the M.A. course requirements. The work presented in the portfolio may take the form of the traditional research essay required in most graduate courses, but may also include such items as scholarly publications or conference presentations of work that originated in those courses.
(2) a 5-7 page reflective essay that serves as an introduction to and rationale for the work chosen for the portfolio and identifies how this work satisfies the learning objectives of the M.A. program (see the Appendix for these objectives).

Students pursuing Plan C need not register for any particular course to submit their M.A. portfolio, but must submit the completed portfolio to the Director of Graduate Studies a minimum of four weeks prior to the end of the semester in which they intend to graduate.

**Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships**

Each academic year, new and continuing students are invited to apply for Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships (fellowships are awarded to Ph.D. students only).

Students who receive an initial award of funding upon admission or in a later application will receive information about the number of years of funding they can plan on receiving, given continued satisfactory academic standing. For those years, students do not need to submit new application materials each year. If students wish to apply for an additional year of funding after the initial span of their award, they should submit application materials as described below. There are a limited number of funding opportunities in the department, so the awards are highly competitive. For a full list of available opportunities, visit the English Department website (clas.wayne.edu/English/Graduate-Studies)

**Timing and Availability**

Nine-month Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) typically begin in the Fall term, but may be available to start in the Winter term in special circumstances. Depending on availability and approval by the Graduate School, some number of English graduate students may also be supported via Graduate Student Assistantships (GSAs) and Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs); these are typically twelve-month appointments that begin during the Fall term. Fellowships provide an academic year (nine months) of support and, when available, are awarded for both recruiting new students and students completing the dissertation.

**Due Date of Applications**

New Ph.D. student applications are due December 15th, continuing student funding applications are due January 15th, and new M.A. student applications are due February 15th. Most award decisions will begin on or before March 1st and continue until April 15th. Decisions regarding the reappointment of assistantships are communicated to students no later than June 15 for
appointments beginning the following Fall term and December 1 for appointments beginning in the following Winter term.

**Application Materials**
Students who are seeking new admission to the graduate program in English will find materials about applying for funding at wayne.edu/admissions/graduate and on the Department of English website (clas.wayne.edu/English/Graduate-Admission). Application materials for the reappointment of funding or for students applying for funding who are already enrolled but are currently not funded are distributed to all students on an annual basis via the graduate student listserv.

**Criteria**
Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Student Assistantships, and Fellowships appointed during the academic year (Fall and Winter semesters) are recommended by the Graduate Committee to the Director of Graduate Studies who then recommends them to the Chairperson of the Department in accordance with English Department Bylaws.

Assistantships and fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to superior students admitted to the M.A. and Ph.D. programs:

- In the case of new student awards for 9-month teaching assistantships and recruiting fellowships, the department considers the promise of and/or present achievement in research and teaching.
- In the case of internal or extended student awards for 9-month teaching assistantships or dissertation completion fellowships, the department considers all of the following criteria: the applicant’s current academic standing, progress toward the degree, teaching excellence and related professional development, and the applicant’s promise of and/or present achievement in research.
- In the case of GSA positions, specific hiring criteria are identified at the time of posting.

**For students who enter the Ph.D. program with the M.A. degree, transfer credit, and four years of support who are seeking additional support for their 5th year of studies, the Prospectus must be approved before the date of application (January 15).** M.A. students who are awarded GTA or GSA funding are limited to two years of support for that degree, depending on good academic standing and excellence in teaching or service, as relevant to the appointment.

M.A. students who are awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship are required to participate in all orientation activities and take ENG 6001 Pedagogical Practicum I in their first semester. M.A. students are invited but
not required to take ENG 6004 Pedagogical Practicum II in the first semester of their second year of studies.

**Summer Teaching**

Graduate Teaching Assistantships appointed during the Spring/Summer term are recommended by the department’s Scheduling Committee (consisting of the Chair, Associate Chair, Director of Composition, Director of Graduate Studies, and the Academic Services Officer working with the Scheduling Committee) and approved by the Chairperson of the Department. Current GTAs and GSAs may apply to teach summer courses in the department of English via a GTA appointment. Applications for summer teaching are typically due April 15 for positions beginning the following Spring/Summer term; notifications are made on a rolling basis between the time of application and the start of the semester. In the case of hiring for summer teaching, hiring criteria will be identified at the time of posting.

**Nondiscrimination statement** (Article X of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between WSU and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers):

Wayne State University and the GEOC recognize an obligation and reaffirm their commitment to achieve equal employment opportunity, non-discrimination, and non-harassment within the University. Accordingly, it is agreed that, consistent with University policies, the University and members of the bargaining unit shall not discriminate or harass on the basis of race, color, veteran status, height, weight, ethnicity, religion, creed, political affiliation, political beliefs, membership in any social or political organization, national origin, ancestry, marital or parental status, age, gender, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, or HIV status, of those capable of performing their professional duties.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Students maintain satisfactory academic progress through satisfying enrollment requirements (part-time or full-time enrollment), meeting distribution requirements (five 7000-level courses throughout the degree program), completing a capstone project (thesis, essay, or portfolio), and maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA (overall and each semester).

**Grade Appeals**

Students may appeal final grades in coursework (but not individual assignment grades) according to procedures published by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students should first seek to settle grade disputes informally with the instructor. If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, a formal grade appeal may be filed within 30 days of the time the student has or should have received a final grade. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Grade Appeal Procedures are published on the CLAS website (clas.wayne.edu).
Other Appeals
Students may appeal program decisions by first discussing the matter with the DGS within 30 days of the DGS’s notification of the decision under discussion. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved for the student, the next step is petitioning the Graduate Committee in writing within 30 days of the conference with the DGS. If the matter arises during the Spring/Summer semester, the Graduate Committee will consider it during the first meeting in the Fall semester. If the student wishes to appeal the decision of the Graduate Committee, he or she may contact the Department Chairperson within 10 days of the Graduate Committee’s written notification. Should the matter not be resolved by the Chairperson, the student may follow procedures for appeal as outlined by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the University Bulletin, and by the Graduate School.

Exceptions
A student who wishes to request an exception to any of the M.A. program requirements should file a written, detailed petition with his or her advisor. If the advisor approves the petition, he or she will forward it, along with his or her recommendation, to the DGS, who will consider it with the Graduate Committee and the Chairperson. If approved by the department, and the exception is for a university requirement, the petition will be forwarded to the Graduate School. All exceptions must ultimately be approved by the Graduate School. Appeals of decisions follow the same process; appeals of Graduate School decisions may be presented to the Provost.

Time Limitation
Students have a six-year time limit to complete all requirements for the M.A. degree. The six-year period begins with the end of the semester during which the student was admitted and was completing work toward meeting the requirements for the degree. In order to request a time extension, a student may petition the DGS, and if approved, it is reviewed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Leaves of Absence
Students requesting a leave of absence from the M.A. program for any reason should be in touch directly with the Director of Graduate Studies and submit their request in writing. Requests for a leave of absence for more than one semester will be reviewed by both the Director of Graduate Studies and the Chairperson and subject to approval from the Graduate School. Leaves of absence, when granted, do not pause the six-year time limitation of the M.A. degree. For specific information and requirements for maternal leaves of absence for GTAs and GSAs, consult the Collective Bargaining Agreement between WSU and the Graduate Employees Organizing Committee-American Federation of Teachers.
UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to following all of the departmental requirements for the M.A. degree, all students must also abide by the following university-level requirements.

**Residency:** The University requires students to take at least 24 credit hours in residence (i.e., course work) at Wayne. Up to 8 hours may be transferred from graduate programs at other accredited institutions as long as those hours have not already counted towards an earned graduate degree. To have credits transferred, a petition must be filed with the Director of Graduate Studies; credits may be transferred only for courses with a grade of “B” or better.

**Directed Study Credits:** No more than eight credits of Directed Study courses may be counted toward the minimum credits requirement for the M.A. degree.

**Time Limit:** The work toward the M.A. degree must be completed within six calendar years from the end of the first semester of course work. While extensions are possible, they are not automatic. *(NOTE: Students are advised to consult the Graduate Bulletin for a complete description of the rules and regulations of the university.)*

CONTINUATION TO THE Ph.D. PROGRAM

Students wishing to continue for a Ph.D. in English should obtain a description of the Ph.D. requirements upon entering the M.A. program and select their course work in accordance with the requirements of the doctoral program insofar as that is possible. Admission to the Ph.D. program is determined by academic performance and promise.

M.A. students wishing to apply for admission to the doctoral program should adhere to the following criteria. They are required to submit a “Change of Status” form but otherwise must supply the same documents and adhere to the same schedule as do other applicants to the Ph.D. program. That is, the student needs to submit a new statement of purpose, two letters from English Department faculty members with whom the student has worked, scores on the General Tests of the Graduate Record Examination, a current writing sample, and updated transcripts. *(NOTE: M.A. students wishing to continue to the Ph.D. should not take more than 8 hours beyond M.A. course requirements before admission to the Ph.D. program; students who take more than 8 hours risk losing the option of counting those credits toward Ph.D. requirements.)*
COURSE DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT CHECKLIST

In addition to earning a minimum of 33 credits, Ph.D. students must also satisfy the following course distribution requirements in their relevant degree Plan:

**PLAN A**
- ENG 6800 3 credit hours
- 4 7000-level English courses in English 12-16 credit hours
- ENG 8999 (M.A. Thesis) 3-6 credit hours
- Electives 8-15 credit hours

**PLAN B**
- 5 7000-level English courses in English 15-20 credit hours
- ENG 7999 (M.A. Essay) 3 credit hours
- Electives 10-15 credit hours

**PLAN C**
- 5 7000-level English courses in English 15-20 credit hours
- Electives 13-18 credit hours
Appendix A -- Program Learning Outcomes for the M.A. Program in English

Plan A – M.A. Creative Writing Thesis

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the objects of study and disciplinary constructions of their field in English Studies.

2. Conduct scholarly and creative work in an ethical manner, consistent with professional standards in their field in English studies.

3. Create an original work or an original body of work of aesthetic value, assessable by a Master’s Thesis.

Plan B – M.A. Essay

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the objects of study and disciplinary constructions of their field in English Studies.

2. Conduct scholarly work in an ethical manner, consistent with professional standards in their field in English studies.

3. Create scholarly works that demonstrate fluency in the critical analysis of and argumentation about literature, media, culture, and/or rhetoric & composition, assessable by the M.A. Essay.

Plan C – M.A. Portfolio

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the objects of study and disciplinary constructions of their field in English Studies.

2. Conduct scholarly and creative work in an ethical manner, consistent with professional standards in their field in English studies.

3. Create scholarly works that demonstrate fluency in the critical analysis of and argumentation about literature, media, culture, and/or rhetoric & composition, assessable by a Portfolio and reflective statement.
Appendix B – Graduate Course Learning Outcomes

For those courses that are offered for undergraduate and graduate credit, these outcomes are in addition to the departmental undergraduate course learning outcomes:

For 5000-level courses (excluding creative writing) the graduate learning outcomes include the undergraduate outcomes plus:

• Write arguments that are coherent, organized, and consistent.
• Engage in scholarly conversations in the field as part of advanced research.
• Relate course knowledge to issues within English Studies.
• Successfully apply appropriate field-specific and interdisciplinary methodologies to the course topic.

For 5000-level creative writing courses the graduate learning outcomes include the undergraduate outcomes plus:

• Create original work that is situated in and exhibits awareness of relevant contemporary and historical creative work.
• Apply appropriate field-specific and interdisciplinary methodologies to the course topic.

ENG 6800 – Advanced Creative Writing

• Analyze exemplary works in order to recognize, evaluate, imitate, and experiment with the stylistic and formal choices their authors made.
• Compose original work that exhibits a grasp of the contemporary and historical writings in the field.
• Revise and edit early drafts in response to criticism
• Create a portfolio of writing that includes an artist’s statement, critical reflection, and/or strategies for publication.

For courses offered for Graduate credit only, students completing these courses will be able to:

ENG 6001 and other pedagogical practica:

• Produce pedagogical materials that reflect accepted practices in the field.
• Locate, evaluate, and integrate teaching practices in the context of relevant contemporary and historical scholarship.

ENG 7001 -- 7007:

• Write arguments that are coherent, organized, consistent, and of sustained length.
• Demonstrate knowledge of foundational theoretical and critical texts.
• Historicize and contextualize foundational theoretical and critical texts.
• Employ critical methodologies appropriate both to the practice of theorizing and to their disciplines.

**ENG 7011—7066 & 7840**
• Write arguments that are coherent, organized, consistent, and of sustained length.
• Demonstrate analytical and critical knowledge of a representative variety of primary and secondary texts.
• Successfully apply theoretical approaches within scholarship in the field.
• Identify and enter into ongoing critical conversations in the field.

**For ENG 7800**
• Analyze exemplary works in order to recognize, evaluate, imitate, and experiment with the stylistic and formal choices their authors made.
• Compose original work that exhibits a grasp of the contemporary and historical writings in the field.
• Create a portfolio of writing that includes an artist’s statement, critical reflection, and/or strategies for publication.

**ENG 7990 -- Directed Study in English**
• Write arguments that are coherent, organized, consistent, and of sustained length.
  • Engage in scholarly conversations in the field through the production of advanced research.
  • Relate course knowledge to issues within English Studies.
  • Apply appropriate field-specific and interdisciplinary methodologies to the course topic.

**8000-level courses:**
• Write original arguments that are coherent, organized, consistent, and of sustained length.
• Demonstrate analytical and critical knowledge of relevant primary and secondary texts.
• Locate and contextualize a research topic within a broader field.
• Apply key methods for advanced research in the field.
• Participate as a scholar within ongoing critical conversations in the field.