

New English M.A. Course Requirements

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Course Requirements

The M.A. in English provides three main areas of concentration: literature, writing, and applied linguistics/ESL. The core courses for these areas are, respectively: L506 Issues and Motives of Literary Studies; W509 Introduction: Writing and Literacy Studies; and G500 Introduction to the English Language. Students are currently required to take all three core courses. The English department proposes to change that requirement as follows:

The M.A. in English requires 36 credit hours, the distribution of which will be as follows:

- Students will take a core course in their area of concentration. (4 credit hours)
- Students will take a core course in one of the two other areas of concentration in the program. (4 credit hours).
- Students will take additional courses, primarily in their area of concentration. (24 credit hours)
- Students will write a thesis. (4 credit hours)

Students should take the two required core courses at the beginning of the graduate program.

This proposal reflects a desire on the part of the English department to provide graduate students with the opportunity from the outset of their studies to focus more fully on an area of concentration. With these changes, students will be able to, in effect, replace one of the current core courses with a course in their area of concentration. At the same time, requiring students to take a core course outside their area of concentration provides them with an introduction to one other scholarly approach to the study of the English language, thus giving them a somewhat more well-rounded graduate experience than they might otherwise have. Students may still take, if they wish, all three core courses, using the third one as an elective that counts toward the degree. The total number of credit hours required for the M.A. in English will still be 36 credit hours.