Master of Arts in English
Program Handbook

revised 09/2014
General Information
A master's degree in English requires completion of ten three-credit graduate courses, with a 3.0 overall GPA, competence in one language other than English OR additional study in Language and Rhetoric, and submission of a thesis.

Full Time Enrollment
To maintain full time status (necessary to apply for financial aid) students must enroll for:
- 12 graduate credits if you are G1 status (M.A. students who have completed fewer than 24 graduate credits).
- 9 graduate credits if you are G2 status (M.A. students who have completed 24 graduate credits).

Students must enroll for at least one credit during the semester in which they wish to graduate. If there is a semester in which a student plans not to enroll for classes, s/he must apply to the Graduate School for an official leave of absence. If the student fails to do so, enrollment in the M.A. program will lapse. Upon re-application to the program, the student will be subject to a $500 re-admission fee.

Time Limit
Students in the English M.A. program may be full-time or part-time. The time limit for completion of the M.A. degree is three years for full-time students and five years for part-time students. Extensions may be requested, but we urge students to complete the M.A. in a timely fashion.

Independent Studies
Only one course numbered EGL 599 (Independent Study) will count toward the course requirements for the M.A. EGL 599 may not be taken during the student's first semester and may be taken thereafter only if the student has no Incompletes and a GPA of B+ or above.

The Language Requirement
The Language Requirement has been revised, effective for students matriculating in Fall 2014. Students may either fulfill the language requirement through one of the following three options, or they may take a third course in Language and Rhetoric (see Course Requirements in the subsequent section).

Options for fulfilling the language requirement:
- **Option 1:** Show evidence of having completed the second year of a language other than English at the undergraduate level with a grade of B or better within the last five years.
• **Option II:** Upon examination, demonstrate ability to translate writings of moderate difficulty in an approved language. Students who do not pass the examination may take it again after a 3-month interval.

• **Option III:** Obtain a grade of B or higher in a 500-level reading/translation course (e.g. FRN 500, GER 500).

• The following languages are automatically accepted for fulfilling the language requirement: Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. Other languages relevant to a student’s graduate program may be approved upon petition to the Graduate Program Director.

**Course Requirements**

• **Three Courses in Language and Rhetoric** (or Two Courses for students who have fulfilled the Foreign Language Requirement).
  o EGL 509 Studies in Language and Linguistics *(required)*
  o EGL 506 Topics in Theory: Rhetoric or Composition
  o EGL 592 Problems in the Teaching of Writing

• **Three Topics Courses** (in at least two different topic areas)
  o 584: Topics in Genre Studies
  o 585: Topics in Cultural Studies
  o 586: Topics in Gender Studies
  o 587: Topics in Race, Ethnic or Diaspora Studies
  o 588: Writing Workshops

• **Three Elective Courses** (or Four Courses, for students who have fulfilled language requirement)
  o Electives should be 500-level English Courses (600-level English courses and relevant courses from other departments must be approved by the Graduate Director).

• **Period Requirement**
  o At least one of the courses taken to fulfill degree requirements listed above must focus on periods before 1700; at least one must focus on periods after 1700.

• **Master’s Thesis**
  After completing at least 15 graduate credits, students may enroll for EGL 598 while writing a master’s thesis of 30-40 pages under the guidance of a thesis advisor (chosen by the student with approval of Graduate Director) and an additional faculty member chosen by the student and the advisor. Enrollment requires the completion of the 598 enrollment form, to be signed by the student and the advisor. The final draft of the MA Thesis must be submitted at least two weeks before the last day of classes in the semester that the student intends to graduate. A final draft is a draft revised in

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*Note:* Students who completed EGL 380 with a grade of B or better need not take EGL 509. However, EGL 380 does not count as one of the 10 required **graduate** courses.
response to feedback from the advisor on an earlier version. The student is responsible for arranging for the signatures of the advisor and reader on the final version, prepared according to the Graduate School guidelines.

- **Note:** Topic courses may be repeated as long as content varies. One course cannot be used to satisfy more than one requirement. Courses run through the School of Professional Development are not accepted for English MA requirements. Students must be registered in the semester in which they graduate.

**Graduate Certificate Programs**

Students wishing to obtain graduate certificates in Women’s Studies, Cultural Studies, Writing & Rhetoric, and Philosophy are encouraged to do so. These certificate programs offer additional training in the specified areas. Please contact these departments directly regarding the certificate programs and requirements, as they are distinct from the English M.A.