EH GRADUATE PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2018

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Students in the graduate program can focus their studies in any of three overarching themes: Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, or Creative Writing. The requirements for each of these themes are explained below.

LITERATURE

At least by the end of their second semester in the program, Literature students should choose whether to pursue Plan I (thesis) or Plan II (non-thesis).

PLAN I.

• Students who write a thesis must take 1 hour of EH 605 ("Introduction to Graduate Studies in English"), 3 hours of linguistics, 6 hours of thesis work, 12 hours of British/American literature, and 9 hours of electives. They must take at least 6 hours in British Literature and 6 hours in American Literature.
• 15 hours of course work must be at the 600 seminar level in English. A maximum of 3 of these required 15 hours can be taken as EH 699 Thesis Research.
• Students must choose a member of the English faculty to chair their Graduate Study Committee (GSC). In consultation with this chair, students must select at least two other faculty members to complete their GSC. All members of the GSC must be graduate faculty. Once constituted, membership of the GSC cannot be changed without the approval of the departmental graduate program committee.
• Students will not be able to register for EH 699 until they are formally admitted to candidacy by the Graduate School (see Graduate School website for relevant deadlines). Before students can be admitted to candidacy, they must have passed 18 hours of course work and had a thesis proposal accepted by their GSC and the Director of Graduate Studies.
• Students must complete the thesis to the satisfaction of the GSC and the Director of Graduate Studies and must pass a Thesis Defense.

PLAN II.

• Nonthesis students must take 1 hour of EH 605 ("Introduction to Graduate Studies in English"), 3 hours of linguistics, 12 hours of British/American literature, and 12 hours of electives. They must take at least 6 hours in British Literature and 6 hours in American Literature. In addition, students should register for 3 hours of EH 698 ("Directed Studies") during their final semester in the program.
• 15 hours of course work must be at the 600 seminar level in English.
• To complete the MA degree requirements, Plan II students must pass a "30-Books exam."
• By the time students have earned 24 credit hours toward the M.A., students must secure the agreement of a graduate faculty member to serve as chair of their Graduate Study Committee (GSC). Students are encouraged to secure this faculty mentor as early as possible since the chair of a student’s GSC has primary responsibility for mentoring the student through the exam process. The Committee chair must coordinate the composition of the 30-books list; the
composition, administration, and evaluation of the exam; and the scheduling and conduct of the final oral exam for that student. The chair is also responsible for keeping the graduate program director informed of the student's progress.

- In consultation with the student and the graduate program director, the GSC chair will appoint at least two other graduate faculty members to serve on the student's GSC. Once constituted, membership of the GSC cannot be changed without the approval of the departmental graduate program committee.
- Students, in conjunction with the GSC chair, should arrange to take the written 30-books exam approximately two weeks before the end of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.
- The GSC members should have sufficient time to read and evaluate the written exam after which the GSC will meet with the student for a final, one-hour oral exam. If both the written and oral exams are deemed acceptable by the GSC, the student will be cleared to graduate.

RHETORIC & COMPOSITION

PLAN I.

- Students who write a thesis must take 1 hour of EH 605 ("Introduction to Graduate Studies in English"), 3 hours of linguistics, 9 hours of literature electives, 6 hours of thesis research, 3 hours of rhetorical theory, and 9 additional hours of courses in the areas of Rhetorical Theory, Composition Pedagogy, or Professional Writing.
- 15 hours of course work must be at the 600 seminar level in English. A maximum of 3 of these required 15 hours can be taken as EH 699 Thesis Research.
- Students must choose a member of the Rhetoric/Composition faculty to chair their Graduate Study Committee (GSC). In consultation with this chair, students must select at least two other graduate faculty members to complete their GSC. At least one GSC member (in addition to the chair) should be another rhetoric/composition specialist. Once constituted, membership of the GSC cannot be changed without the approval of the departmental graduate program committee.
- Students will not be able to register for EH 699 until they are formally admitted to candidacy by the Graduate School (see Graduate School website for relevant deadlines). Before students can be admitted to candidacy, they must have passed 18 hours of course work and had a thesis proposal accepted by their GSC and the Director of Graduate Studies.
- Students must complete the thesis to the satisfaction of the GSC and the Director of Graduate Studies and must pass a Thesis Defense.

PLAN II.

- Nonthesis students must take 1 hour of EH 605 ("Introduction to Graduate Studies in English"), 3 hours of linguistics, 9 hours of literature electives, 3 hours of rhetorical theory, and 12 additional hours of courses in the areas of Rhetorical Theory, Composition Pedagogy, or Professional Writing. In addition, students should register for 3 hours of EH 698 ("Directed Studies") during their final semester in the program.
- 15 hours of course work must be at the 600 seminar level in English.
- To complete the MA degree requirements, Plan II students must pass a "30-Books exam."
- By the time students have earned 24 credit hours toward the M.A., students must secure the agreement of a graduate faculty member to serve as chair of their Graduate Study Committee (GSC). Students are encouraged to secure this faculty mentor as early as possible since the chair of a student's GSC has primary responsibility for mentoring the student through the exam
process. The Committee chair must coordinate the composition of the 30-books list; the composition, administration, and evaluation of the exam; and the scheduling and conduct of the final oral exam for that student. The chair is also responsible for keeping the graduate program director informed of the student’s progress.

- In consultation with the student and the graduate program director, the Committee chair will appoint at least two other graduate faculty members to serve on the student’s GSC. At least two of the three members of the GSC (including the GSC chair) should be specialists in rhetoric and composition. Once constituted, membership of the GSC cannot be changed without the approval of the departmental graduate program committee.

- Students, in consultation with the GSC chair, should arrange to take the written 30-books exam approximately two weeks before the end of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.

- The GSC members should have sufficient time to read and evaluate the written exam after which the GSC will meet with the student for a final, one-hour oral exam. If both the written and oral exams are deemed acceptable by the GSC, the student will be cleared to graduate.

**Creative Writing (Plan I only)**

- Creative writing students are required to take 1 hour of EH 605 ("Introduction to Graduate Studies in English"), 9 hours of creative writing workshop courses, 6 hours of thesis research, 9 hours of literature, and 6 hours of English electives.

- 15 hours of course work must be at the 600 seminar level in English including at least one section of a 600-level creative writing workshop. A maximum of 3 of these required 15 hours can be taken as EH 699 Thesis Research.

- Students must choose a member of the Creative Writing faculty to chair their Graduate Study Committee (GSC). In consultation with this chair, students must select at least two other faculty members to complete their GSC. All members of the GSC must be graduate faculty and at least one (in addition to the chair) should be another creative writing specialist. Once constituted, membership of the GSC cannot be changed without the approval of the departmental graduate program committee.

- Before students can be admitted to candidacy, they must have passed 18 hours of course work, including at least 3 hours in creative writing, and a thesis proposal accepted by their GSC and the Director of Graduate Studies.

- Students must pass a Thesis Defense.