Graduate Curriculum Approval Form
Changes to Degree Programs

Degree (i.e. M.A., Ph.D., etc.): MA
Name of Program (i.e. Biology): English
Program CIP or X code: Literature and Rhetoric and Composition
Name of Concentration (i.e. Botany): Spring 2009
Proposed Effective Term (i.e. Spring 2006)

Faculty Contact
Email: Dr. Laura L. Runge
College: runge@cas.usf.edu
Dept and Mail Code: Arts and Sciences
CPR107

Changes to a Degree Program

1. Follow the guidelines outlined by the Graduate Council at: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp). For Graduate Council Review submit:
   - the Graduate Curriculum Approval form (this form)
   - in three distinct sections, a summary of the following:
     i. list/describe what the old requirements were.
     ii. list/describe what the new requirements will be
     iii. why the changes are necessary
   - The Catalog Copy showing the changes that will be needed if the proposal is approved

2. Submit the signed original and 1 electronic copy of the complete packet to the Graduate School by the deadline posted online [http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/coursepro.asp). For questions, contact Carol Hines-Cobb at chinescob@grad.usf.edu or 813-974-4239.

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*Concurrence - Consultation with units and departments providing related offerings or expertise is expected and encouraged.*
Proposal for changes in the MA in English

I. What we have now – Old Requirements

Current Admissions Requirements for Literature:
1. BA in English
2. GRE general exam: 600V, 4.0 AW
3. undergraduate major GPA 3.50, 3.30 last 2 years
4. three (3) letters of recommendation
5. a two-to-three page personal statement describing the student’s background, purpose for attending graduate school, and career goals.

Current Admission Requirements for Rhetoric and Composition:
1. BA in English
2. GRE general exam: 600V, 4.0AW
3. undergraduate major GPA 3.5, 3.3 last 2 years
4. three (3) letters of recommendation
5. a two-to-three page personal statement describing the student’s background, purpose for attending graduate school, and career goals.

Current Program Information:

The M.A. in English with a concentration in Literature is designed primarily to train advanced students of literature. The program requires study of both literature and composition. The M.A. in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition is designed primarily to train advanced students of literature and rhetoric.

Current Program Degree Requirements:
ENG 6009 (3) (this should be taken early in the sequence)
LAE 6375 (3)

Current Concentration Courses for Literature:
ENG 6018 (3)
ENG 6019 (3)

II. What we want now: New Requirements

New Admission Requirements:
III. Why the changes are necessary:

Summary:

We are adding a writing sample to the admission requirements for the master’s degree in English. The department feels that a disciplinary writing sample (i.e. writing from an English course) will supply critical information about the candidate’s success in the program and so now has added this as an admission requirement.

Due to changes in degree requirements (see below), we are changing the program information section of the catalog for the literature concentration and removing the emphasis on composition.

Because the current MA degree is hampered with four required courses or 12 credits in a 30-credit-plus-thesis program, we are eliminating two of the required courses. In practice, most of our MA students are also graduate assistants and are therefore also required to take a teaching practicum. That means that currently five courses, or nearly the entire first year in a two-year program, are required courses and not in the concentration of the degree (i.e. bibliography, teaching practicum, two critical theory courses and an introduction to rhetoric and composition). In order to create greater flexibility for the MA student to take literature courses or rhetoric and composition courses in his or her first year, we are eliminating one degree requirement (LAE 6375 Contemporary Composition Studies) and one literature concentration requirement (changing ENG 6018 Criticism and Theory I AND ENG 6019 Criticism and Theory II to EITHER ENG 6018 OR ENG 6019).

New Program Information:

The M.A. in English with a concentration in Literature is designed primarily to train advanced students of literature. The M.A. in English with a concentration in Rhetoric and Composition is designed primarily to train advanced students of literature and rhetoric.

New Program Degree Requirements:

Remove LAE 6375 (3)

New Concentration Courses for Literature:

Either ENG 6018 (3) or ENG 6019 (3)
Because most of our MA students take the Teaching Composition practicum, the department feels that requiring LAE 6375 Contemporary Composition Studies is redundant and therefore unnecessary to either concentration.

While the department feels that knowledge of criticism and theory is essential to the success of a graduate student in English, the time limitations on MA degrees and the push for shorter time-to-degree makes it imperative that we reduce the number of required courses. Students who want to emphasize criticism and theory in their master’s degree programs still have the option of taking both ENG 6018 and ENG 6019. For most students, however, either the first half of the critical survey (ENG 6018) or the second half (ENG 6019) will be sufficient for this degree.

The reduction in required courses also supports our effort to move MA students more quickly to a research area for thesis. Currently, if a student takes five of six courses in required non-literature, non-rhetoric and composition courses, he or she will only have one course from the concentration in the first year. We are hoping to have students begin thesis work in the second year, and so they need more coursework in their fields of concentration earlier.

Graduate Catalog Copy can be taken directly from section II above.