

English MA Curriculum—Rhetoric and Composition Track

Thesis Option: 33 hours graduate level coursework (12 to be taken from the core, 15 from within selected emphasis, 6 “Thesis”); Oral defense of thesis prospectus; Oral defense of Thesis.

Core courses—(12) Required for all MA students (regardless of emphasis area):

All students in the MA program will be required to take at least one course (3 credits) in each of the following four areas for a total of 12 credit hours toward the MA:

- ENG 6320 “Introduction to Graduate Studies in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy”
- ENG 6323 “History of Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy Studies”
- ENG 6322 “Theory in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy Studies”
- ENG 6324 “Pedagogy in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy Studies”

Areas of Emphasis:

Emphasis on Teaching

Students who plan to pursue or continue teaching in K-12 public schools or at the community college level can focus the remainder of their coursework in the following areas:

- 6 credits of applied writing courses (professional writing, academic discourse, creative writing, proposal writing, technical writing, writing for the web)
- 6 credits of courses in the area of pedagogy and/or research methods (at least 3 of these credits should be specifically in the area of cultural rhetorics such as Comparative Rhetoric, Latino/a Rhetoric or Pedagogy, Border Studies, etc.)
- 3 credits of elective course English
- 6 hours thesis

Emphasis on Professional Writing

Students who plan to enter professions that require expertise in writing strategies will want to distribute their coursework past the core to the following areas:

- 9 credits of applied writing
- 3 credits in research methods or an approved Internship
- 3 credits of elective work in graduate level study in English or a related discipline
- 6 credits thesis

Emphasis on Discourse and Literacy Studies

Students who intend to pursue graduate study past the MA program or are interested in applying their studies in terms of academic discourse and theoretical approaches to questions of literacy can focus the remainder of their coursework beyond the core as follows:

- 3 credits of history
- 3 credit of theory (rhetorical or literary)
- 3 credits of pedagogy
- 3 credits of elective English courses
- 3 credits of Writing Academic Discourse
- 6 credits of thesis