MA in English: Planning Worksheet & Suggested Timeline

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts program consists of 27 credit hours of letter-graded course work with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better, and (at least) a 3 credit Master's Paper. Note that English 764: Teaching Strategies is required of all GTAs who have not taken a similar class elsewhere.

A. MA Core, 9 credits
   _______ 760: Graduate Scholarship
   _______ 762: Critical Theory
   _______ 755: Composition Theory

B. Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics and Literature, 12 credits
   Students select, in consultation with their advisor, two courses from each category.

   Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics, 6 credits
   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________
   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________

   Literature, 6 credits
   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________
   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________

Other/Electives, 6 credits
Students select, in consultation with their advisor, two courses from either category above or from inside the English department. NOTE: Courses may be at 600- or 700-level; additional courses, from outside the department, may be recommended by the student's academic advisor if they clearly match the student's research and deepen his/her understanding of the field. A request for substitution needs to be submitted prior to course enrollment and be approved by the graduate director.

   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________
   Course No./Title: ________________________________ Credits: ________

Foreign Language Requirement
Master's students need to demonstrate intermediate (200-level or 2nd year) competency in one foreign language by the time the program of study is completed.

   1st Year: ___________________ Evidence: ___________________ Date Certified: ________
   2nd Year: ___________________ Evidence: ___________________ Date Certified: ________

Prospectus
Students are required to submit and defend a prospectus after they have formed a supervisory committee and before they formally begin to write their Master's Paper. The prospectus is a brief overview of the master's project that provides the committee with (in this order) the proposed problem and topic, the anticipated research method, a review of extant literature, a description of the study, as well as projected results and impact on the existing body of knowledge on the topic.

   Proposed MA Paper Title: ______________________________________________________
   MA Paper Director: ____________________________________________________________
MA Paper, 3 credits
The MA paper will demonstrate a thorough understanding of existing knowledge and the ability to apply that existing knowledge to a problem of interest. MA papers grow out of work completed for a course or undertaken as an independent study. The degree culminates in the oral defense of the polished MA paper (ca. 35-50 pages, incl. front matter and bibliography) by the MA candidate and administered by the student’s supervisory committee. Note that students need to be enrolled continuously for a minimum of 1 credit while working on their MA paper.

English 797: MA Paper (1-3 credits per semester)

Suggested Timeline to Degree Completion (2-year MA)

Year One, Fall Semester (6 credits suggested)
English 760: Graduate Scholarship (3 credits)
English 764: Classroom Strategies for TAs or an English elective (3 credits)

Year One, Spring Semester (6-9 credits suggested)
English 755: Composition Theory or 762: Critical Theory (3 credits)
English course in Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics (3 credits)
English course in Literature (3 credits)

Year One, Summer (0-3 credits suggested)
English course in Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics, Literature, or Summer Scholar offering Complete Language Requirement

Year Two, Fall Semester (6-9 credits suggested)
English course in Rhetoric/Writings/Linguistics or Literature (3 credits)
English elective (3 credits)
English 797: MA Paper (1-3 credits)

Year Two, Spring Semester (6-9 credits suggested)
English 755: Composition Theory or 762: Critical Theory (3 credits)
English course in Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics or Literature (3 credits)
English 797: MA Paper (1-3 credits)

Year Two, Summer (0-3 credits suggested)
English course in Rhetoric/Writing/Linguistics, Literature, or Summer Scholar offering English 797: MA Paper (1-3 credits)