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 ________________________________ Credits: ______
   ______ 762: Critical Theory ________________________________ Credits: ______
   ______ 755: Composition Theory or 756: Composition Research ________ Credits: ______

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: ______

C. Other/Electives, 6 credits
   Students select, in consultation with their advisor, two courses from either category above from inside the English department. NOTE: Courses may be at the 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: ______

D. 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: ______

E. 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, the projected results and impact on the existing body of knowledge on the topic, and an anticipated timeline for completion.
Proposed MA Paper Title: ___________________________________________________________
MA Paper Director: ________________________________________________________________
2nd Member: _____________________________ __________________________________________
3rd Member/Department, College: __________________________________________________

F. MA Paper, 3 credits
The Master’s Paper will demonstrate a thorough understanding of existing knowledge and the ability to
apply that existing knowledge to a problem of interest. Master’s 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
Master’s 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 Master’s Paper.

_____ English 797: MA Paper (1-3 credits per semester) ____________________________ Credits: _____
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Graduate Student __________________________ Date __________________________
Academic Advisor __________________________ Date __________________________

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/Writing/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)