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Welcome to the Graduate Program in English at LSU.

We offer three degrees at the graduate level: the Master of Arts in English, the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and the Doctor of Philosophy in English. These "Guidelines for Graduate Study" (also known as the Purple Book) present departmental regulations governing all graduate study in English, as well as regulations specific to each degree. The Handbook is an important source of information for both graduate students and the graduate faculty. Please also consult the LSU English Department and Graduate School websites for additional information.

GRADUATE SCHOOL INFORMATION
English graduate study at LSU is governed by the regulations of LSU's Graduate School as well as by English Department requirements. These Guidelines provide general information about the Graduate English Programs, and they also provide some information about relevant Graduate School policies. But they make no attempt to duplicate all the applicable material from the General Catalog. Always consult Graduate School regulations directly.

Graduate students are responsible for fulfilling requirements described in LSU's current General Catalog and these Guidelines. Although the Catalog's inside cover states explicitly that LSU reserves the right to change requirements at any time, the Department tries to apply the regulations that are in effect in the year students enter their programs.

Of particular importance in the Graduate Catalog are the sections entitled “Admission to Graduate Study,” “General Graduate School Regulations,” and “Requirements for Advanced Degrees.” If you are
writing a thesis or dissertation, be sure to pick up the Graduate School's *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations*. Refer to the "Guidelines" throughout your course of study as questions arise. If your question is not answered clearly here or in the *Graduate Catalog*, please ask your First-year Advisor, your Major Professor, the Director of Graduate Studies in English (DGS), the Graduate English Program Specialist, or the pertinent officials at the Graduate School.

**Graduate students must always assume the initiative for progress toward their degrees.** It’s your degree. Check the calendar on our website for key deadlines, and take note of information in mailings. We’ll do our best to help you to negotiate the bureaucracy, but ultimately it’s your responsibility to find out the rules and meet the deadlines.

**International Study**
LSU has graduate student exchange programs (which generally carry financial awards) with several foreign universities. Check with the Graduate School for details. Most of this information is not available in the English Department.
ENGLISH GRADUATE INFORMATION

Advising
Two members of the graduate faculty serve as first-year graduate advisors, one for M.F.A. students and the other for Ph.D. and M.A. students. See the Graduate English Program Specialist for the names of the current advisors. Your advisor serves as your academic counselor until you choose another member of the graduate faculty to advise you. Advisors send students to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for additional counseling when appropriate.

Toward the end of each student's third semester, the graduate faculty will evaluate a student's progress for advisory purposes, and each student will then meet with the DGS.

Course Information
You must be registered as a full-time graduate student to retain a graduate assistantship. The minimum number of hours for full time status is nine hours of credit, six of which must be at the graduate level. Students enrolled in English graduate degree programs must take courses numbered 7000 and above. A very few 4000-level courses in English, or 4000-level courses in other departments that fulfill graduate requirements, are permitted. (See "Course Work.")

Some courses can be taken more than once for credit, when topics vary. Always consult the General Catalog to check the maximum hours allowed per course (especially workshop and independent study courses).

The following course numbers designate independent study or research arrangements and may be taken only with the consent of a Graduate Faculty member who agrees to direct the course of study and to assign a grade. Students and faculty should agree beforehand on work expected
and, in the case of English 8900, must file the appropriate paperwork (available from the Graduate Program Specialist) with the DGS. These courses are classified as follows:

- English 8000 (Thesis Research) can be taken only by students writing (or preparing to write) an M.A. or M.F.A. thesis. Graded S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory).
- English 8900 (Independent Study) can be taken with the consent of a Graduate Faculty member who agrees to direct the course of study, to meet regularly with the student, and to assign a letter grade. Graded A-F.
- English 9000 (Dissertation Research) can be taken only by students enrolled in the Ph.D. program who are either preparing a dissertation or are preparing for and taking the General Exam. Graded S/U.

In all three of these courses, students must report regularly to the course director on research progress.

**Evaluation of Graduate Students**

All graduate course work is evaluated by a grade (see Appendix) and by an evaluation filed in the office of the DGS by the teacher at the end of the semester. Comments on course work remain within the department and help the DGS in advising and in keeping track of each student’s progress toward the degree. You may consult with the DGS for an oral summary of your evaluations at any time once a year. If you want to know more about the contents of your file, you must submit a written request for information to the DGS.

All students meet with the DGS at the end of their third semester to discuss progress towards the degree. All doctoral students meet with the DGS and their probable dissertation director at the end of the sixth semester.
Students who fail any of the major examinations required for degrees in the department (M.A. and M.F.A. Final Examinations, and Ph.D. General and Final Examinations) can discuss their performances with their examiners and the DGS. They are permitted to retake each examination once only.

Speakers
Talks, readings, workshops, lectures, and UWP programs sponsored by the Department of English are part of your professional training. Graduate students are expected to attend such events as active members of the academic community. We also encourage you to attend job candidate presentations and events.

Job Placement
A graduate faculty member serves as the Job Placement Officer (also known as Job Coach). See the Contacts page here or the English Graduate Program Specialist for the name of the current Placement Officer. The officer's phone numbers and office hours are posted outside the main English Office (Allen 260) with those of other faculty members. Please also see our Placement Pages on the English Graduate Program website, under information for "Current Students."

The Job Placement Officer advises students about the job market as well as fellowship and grant opportunities; runs workshops on improving CVs, application letters, writing samples, job talks, dossiers, teaching portfolios, and interviewing skills; organizes mock interviews; etc.

Professional Development
Although excelling in your degree is always your highest priority, developing a strong CV during your time here is also important. Our website has a professional development page with advice and a suggested timeline. Join professional organizations at the graduate
student rate, explore non-academic job possibilities, submit proposals to conferences, and revise your best work for publication. **Students should begin consulting with the Job Placement Officer or other faculty about professional development from the beginning of their graduate study.**
MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

The Master of Arts in English is a broad program of study designed to help students develop professional-level skills in research, reading, writing, and editing in a range of cultural, literary, and language-related areas. The Department of English offers the M.A. degree with both thesis and non-thesis options. Both options require an oral Final Examination. Full-time graduate students normally complete the program in two years, although it can be completed more swiftly with careful planning. The degree must be completed within five years of entrance into the program.

The courses you select as an M.A. degree student will give you a broad and well-grounded knowledge of the major literary genres of English, American, and other literatures in historical and cultural context. They will also help you achieve competence in critical approaches and scholarly methods. Non-thesis-option students take 30 hours of course work. Thesis-option students take 24 hours of course work plus 6 hours of Thesis Research (ENGL 8000). (Note: students who plan to enter a Ph.D. program should be aware that M.A. thesis hours may not count toward the course-work requirements for a Ph.D. program. They do not count toward the 48 hours of course work required for our own Ph.D., for example.)

COURSE WORK

Courses to be counted toward the M.A. degree must be at the 7000 level, except:

• 4000-level courses in linguistics and Old English, permitted with the consent of both your Major Professor and the DGS. These are the only 4000-level English classes for which English graduate students can receive graduate credit.
• 4000-level related courses in other departments (max. 9 hours) that are designated by the Graduate School as providing graduate credit and are considered graduate courses by the department in which they are taken. Check with the English Graduate Program Administrator to see if the university indicates that graduate credit can be given. Please offer verification to the DGS or the Director of Creative Writing that this course requires graduate students to do significantly more work than undergraduates also enrolled in the course. The Graduate School does not permit courses to be offered for graduate credit in the summer unless the same course provides graduate credit during regular semesters. In no case can more than half of the course work counted toward the degree come from courses below the 7000 level.

Course Requirements
At the M.A. level, there are three tracks with different course requirements: Literary Studies, Writing & Culture, and Linguistics. Every student entering at the M.A. level will be required to take the Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020) and period distribution requirements, which refer to the following five historical periods of Anglophone literature and culture: 1) before 1500, 2) 1500-1660, 3) 1660-1800, 4) British after 1800, 5) American after 1800. Students who teach English composition courses must take ENGL 7915 during the semester they are assigned their first composition course.

Literary Studies
• Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
• Two graduate courses from different periods not included in the area of concentration
Three graduate courses from an area of concentration (British, American, Ethnic & Postcolonial, Southern Studies, African-American Studies, or Medieval and Renaissance Studies). Students who choose Literary Studies as their track must thus take at least one course in three of the five designated periods.

**Writing & Culture**

- Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
- Two graduate courses from different periods
- Three graduate courses from an area of concentration (Cultural Studies, Women’s & Gender Studies, Rhetorical Studies, or Composition Studies). The Teaching Practicum, 7915, does not count as one of these three courses. The concentration in Rhetoric and/or Composition Studies requires four courses, including 7915.

**English Linguistics**

- Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
- Two courses in historical views of the English Language (ENGL 4711 and ENGL 7711)
- At least 3 courses in Linguistics. (If a student has taken ENGL 4711 as an undergraduate, he or she can take ENGL 7711 twice when the topic varies, or get permission from the DGS to take a different course.)

**M.A. OPTIONS**

1. **Non-Thesis (or Portfolio) Option** requires 30 hours of coursework. The student presents a portfolio made up of essays and syllabi. The essay portion consists of a selection of three to four essays
from the M.A. coursework, at least three of which should be term projects of average article length. This selection should represent the student’s best written work and may be revised, under the direction of a professor, before submission to the committee. The syllabi should include all M.A. coursework. The portfolio should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks in advance of the actual examination. A model portfolio is available in the English Graduate Office.

The Examining Committee comprises three faculty members chosen by the student and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies; the student should have taken courses with at least two of the committee members.

At the Non-Thesis M.A. Final Exam, the student will give a presentation that is identical to the student presentation in the Ph.D. Qualifying Procedure (see below). Discussion in the examination can refer to material covered in the student’s graduate coursework as well as to material deemed important in determining the student’s general competence. The student should schedule the exam through the English Graduate Program Specialist with the Graduate School, organizing the date and time with the committee. The examination committee will conduct an oral Final Examination that will last between one and two hours. The student can take this exam no more than twice. If the student fails the second attempt, the student is considered terminated from the program at the end of the examination semester. The student has the right to petition for reconsideration.

Special Note for M.A./Ph.D. at LSU: For students earning the M.A. while in the Ph.D. Program, the Ph.D. Qualifying Procedure (described below) is the same event as the M.A. Final Examination. In practice, there is no difference between the M.A. Final Examination and the Ph.D. Qualifying Procedure except that the Qualifying Procedure
Committee will review past coursework and recommend further coursework as well as determine foreign language requirements for the student who passes.

We strongly advise any students entering the Ph.D. program without an M.A. to get the M.A. along the way. You will have completed the work, so you might as well have the degree to show for it.

2. **Thesis Option** requires 24 hours of course work plus 6 hours of English 8000 (Thesis Research). The members of your Thesis Committee supervise and assist you in your work and approve the final draft of your thesis, which should be a substantial work of original scholarship and criticism, typically 50-100 pages in length. Visit the Graduate School office during the semester **before** the semester you plan to graduate for deadlines and procedures concerning requests for a Final Exam and submitting the thesis to your committee.

An oral Thesis Defense before your committee constitutes your Final Exam. Theses may be formally submitted to the Thesis Committee **no more than twice** for defense. All members of your committee must agree to pass your thesis. If your thesis is not approved at the second submission, you are considered terminated from the graduate program at the end of the examination semester. M.A. thesis students may not petition for a third submission.

**Thesis M.A. Final Examination:** This procedure is exactly the same as the Non-Thesis Master's Examination except that instead of a portfolio of essays from coursework, the student will submit a thesis. Thesis students should also submit their syllabi of all courses taken during the M.A. program.
After a successful thesis defense, submit the approved and corrected thesis (including any corrections required by the Graduate School) to the Graduate School. Please note the often surprisingly early deadlines in the LSU General Catalog's Academic Calendar.

Switching Options

Students may switch options (thesis or non-thesis) only once. Since the decision about approval of such a change may be affected by financial-aid regulations, the English Department's Graduate Committee must review students' financial aid credentials. Regardless of whether students stay in one option or move to another, they have a total of only two chances to be passed by their committee(s) for the M.A. degree. For example, a student whose thesis is rejected by his or her committee may subsequently request to switch to the non-thesis option, but such a student is expected to pass the oral examination the first time; if not, he or she will ordinarily be terminated from the program.
MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is a broad program of study designed to prepare students for jobs teaching creative writing and careers requiring similar professional skills, to enable students to improve their writing in more than one genre through interaction with faculty and with other writing students, and to become able critics of literary works. Most students complete the program in three years. All students must complete the degree within five years of entrance into the program.

OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS

In order to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, candidates must:

- Submit the Academic Course Plan form
- Complete 42 hours of course work, plus 6 hours of Thesis Research (ENGL 8000).
- Write a Creative Thesis and pass a Final Examination (oral thesis defense).

COURSE WORK

Courses to be counted toward the M.F.A. degree must be at the 7000 level, except:

- 4000-level courses in linguistics and Old English, permitted with the consent of both your Major Professor and the DGS. These are the only 4000-level English classes for which English graduate students can receive graduate credit.

- 4000-level related courses in other departments (max. 9 hours) that are designated by the Graduate School as providing graduate credit and are considered graduate courses by the department in which they are taken. Check with the English Graduate Program Administrator to see if the university
indicates that graduate credit can be given. Please offer verification to the DGS or the Director of Creative Writing that this course requires graduate students to do significantly more work than undergraduates also enrolled in the course. The Graduate School does not permit courses to be offered for graduate credit in the summer unless the same course provides graduate credit during regular semesters.

Courses for the M.F.A. degree must include:

- 15 hours of writing workshops in the following genres. At least three of these hours must be outside your primary genre. No more than 12 hours of any one of these courses may be counted toward the degree:
  - Fiction (ENGL 7006)
  - Poetry (ENGL 7007)
  - Drama (ENGL 7008)
  - Screenwriting (ENGL 7009)

- 3 hours of a forms course, usually in your primary genre:
  - Forms of Prose Fiction (ENGL 7106)
  - Prosody and Poetic Forms (ENGL 7107)
  - Forms of Film Writing (ENGL 7109)

- 12 hours of non-Creative-Writing courses in the English Dept.
  - 7915 (required for those teaching English composition at LSU for the first time)

- 12 more hours in any of the following:
  - Additional non-Creative-Writing English courses
  - Additional workshops (again, note maximum hours of credit listed for each course in the General Catalog)
  - Additional forms courses (again, note maximum hours of credit listed for each course in the General Catalog)
  - Up to 6 hours of independent study (ENGL 8900)
  - Up to 9 hours in related courses outside the department

- 6 hours of Thesis Research (ENGL 8000)
We require an Academic Course Plan meeting with your Advisor, Major Professor, or the Director of Creative Writing in your first or second semester. An M.F.A. Academic Course Plan form is available from the English Graduate Program Specialist or can be downloaded from our website. This form is an advising tool that reflects your plans and your discussion with your advisor. The form clarifies requirements for the degree, but it can evolve as your goals change: you are not bound to specific courses in the order set forth.

THESIS

You must plan a thesis and choose a thesis examining committee a minimum of nine months before the proposed M.F.A. Final Examination. (For more information on the composition of the committee, see the General Catalog.)

The Chair of the committee (your Major Professor) will confer with you and other committee members about the proposed thesis and will review the preliminary thesis work with you, informing you whether your proposed thesis is likely to fulfill the requirements for an M.F.A. degree.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The M.F.A. Final Examination is a critical evaluation of your creative intentions and of how well those intentions have manifested themselves in the play, screenplay, or book-length work of prose or poetry that you have produced. Visit the Graduate School office the semester before the semester you plan to graduate for deadlines and procedures concerning requests for a Final Exam and submitting the thesis to your committee.

Theses may be formally submitted to the Thesis Committee no more than twice for defense. All members of your committee must agree to
pass your thesis. If your thesis is not approved at the second submission, you are considered terminated from the graduate program at the end of the examination semester.

After your successful thesis defense, submit the approved and corrected thesis (including any corrections required by the Graduate School) to the Graduate School. Note the often surprisingly early deadlines in the *LSU General Catalog's* Academic Calendar.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH

The Doctor of Philosophy degree in English at LSU is designed to help students develop high-level, theoretically informed, professional skills in research, reading, writing, editing, and teaching in a range of literary, cultural, and linguistic areas of study, and to develop expertise in at least one of those areas. We prepare students for jobs in college and university teaching and for careers requiring similar professional skills. Students entering with an M.A. should complete their degree within four or five years. All students must complete the degree within 7 years of entrance into the program.

One useful way of thinking about the Ph.D. program is to divide it up into three important phases: coursework, exams, and dissertation. A handy diagram schematically displaying the relationship between the Ph.D. requirements (and how the M.A. requirements feed into them) is an appendix in the "Guidelines" and is also on the Graduate English website. The Timelines for students entering with B.A.s and M.A.s, also available in both places, will also help you.

Note on Internal Admission
Students initially entering the M.A. or M.F.A. programs must be formally admitted to the Ph.D. program. They will be reviewed in the same way as other applicants for admission and financial aid. Such students should apply for admission no later than December 15 to begin the Ph.D. program the following fall semester. They should complete the department’s application form, with writing sample and statement of purpose. (Note: if a student’s admission application is older than five years, he or she must reapply.)
Overview of Requirements
In order to earn a Ph.D. in English, all students must:

- Submit the Academic Course Plan form
- Complete the Qualifying Procedure
- Complete 48 hours of required course work
- Meet the foreign language requirement
- Meet the residency requirement
- Pass the General Examination
- Complete the pre-dissertation conference
- Complete the dissertation (9 hours minimum)
- Pass the Final Examination (Dissertation Defense)

Each of these requirements is detailed below.

ACADEMIC COURSE PLAN/CONFERENCE
This conference is a formal review and assessment of the scope and quality of your past work and plans for future work. In the second semester of study (for students entering with an M.A.) or early in the third (for students entering with a B.A.), complete the following process:

1. Ask three Graduate Faculty members of the English Department to serve as your Academic Course Plan committee. These should primarily be professors who specialize in your areas of interest. See the “Ph.D. Mentoring Document” on our site’s “Professional Development” section for useful recommendations.
2. Request approval of the committee from the DGS.
3. Schedule the conference with your committee.
4. Collect the relevant documents and information needed for the conference and fill out the Academic Course Plan Worksheet as well as a draft of the Academic Course Plan.
5. Submit your form to the DGS for approval, where it remains on file until needed to complete the **Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination**.

The conference is a diagnostic conversation in which you and your committee:

- Determine how much (if any) previous graduate work will be applied as course credit toward the LSU Ph.D., and which requirements these courses fill. The department allows a maximum of 24 hours of previous graduate course work elsewhere (with grades of A,B,P, or S) to be applied toward the degree, including no more than 12 hours of courses taken as a non-matriculating student. M.A. Thesis/Research hours may **not** be applied toward the Ph.D. degree. Bring **transcripts and syllabi from graduate courses taken elsewhere for your committee to evaluate**.
- Discuss the intended shape of your doctoral work, including any deficiencies or problems needing attention.
- Discuss the possibility of choosing a Graduate Minor. You may declare a minor on your Doctoral Degree Audit Form, either within or outside the English department, but you are not required to do so. If you choose to declare a minor, you must find a member of the university's Graduate Faculty who agrees to serve as your Minor Professor, and you must report your choice of a Graduate Minor and Minor Professor to the committee for inclusion in the Academic Course Plan. You need not file any separate forms to declare a minor. More details are discussed below under Graduate **Minors**.
- Draw up the full list of courses (or choices of courses) that will satisfy your degree requirements and provide coverage of a variety of subjects of study relating to your approved plans.
- After the conference, complete the revised Academic Course Plan form.
The principal record of the conference is the Academic Course Plan, completed (in duplicate) and signed by the committee and forwarded to the DGS for approval. It is filed in the English Graduate Office and held until completion of paperwork to schedule the general exam.

For students entering the program with an M.A., the Academic Course Plan conference should be combined with the Qualifying Procedure (see below).

QUALIFYING PROCEDURE
In practice, the Qualifying Procedure is identical to the M.A. Final Examination for students pursuing the Ph.D. at LSU. The Qualifying Procedure is designed to ensure satisfactory overall student progress and quality of work (including determining foreign language requirements), and to give faculty a forum for evaluating whether or not a student should remain in the program. This is a mandated procedure for all Ph.D. students, but Ph.D. students with M.A.s automatically pass the procedure. Students with M.A.s will complete their Qualifying Procedure by undergoing an interview in order to establish and confirm programs of study and to establish the student’s foreign language requirements.

Full-time Ph.D. students entering the program with an M.A. should schedule the Qualifying Procedure during their first semester or early in the second semester.

Full-time Ph.D. students entering without an M.A. should take the Qualifying Procedure no later than the fourth semester or when they have completed the M.A.-level coursework. We strongly encourage students who entered without an M.A. to earn their M.A. at this time by doing the procedure as their M.A. Final Exam. In order for this to count
as your M.A. EXAM, you must schedule this as your M.A. Final Exam with the Graduate School.

The Qualifying Procedure Committee comprises three faculty members chosen by the student and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. The student should have taken courses with at least two of the committee members.

The Procedure consists of three elements: the portfolio review, the student presentation, and the examination:

1. **Portfolio Review**: The student puts together a portfolio of essays and syllabi and submits it to committee members who individually review the material prior to the meeting. The essay portion consists of **a selection of three or four essays** from the M.A. coursework, at least three of which should be term projects of average article length. This selection **should represent the student’s best written work and may be revised, under the direction of a professor, before submission to the committee.** The **syllabi should include all courses taken during the M.A., up to this point.** The portfolio should be submitted to committee members at least two weeks in advance of the actual examination. A model portfolio is available in the English Graduate Office for perusal. The portfolio requirements are identical to the M.A. Final Examination.

2. **Student Presentation**: Drawing from the portfolio, the student orally presents **a summary of graduate-level work completed to date and plans for future work and specialization**: this is an exercise in reflection and scholarly self-articulation. **It should take no more than 20 to 30 minutes. This procedure is identical with that of the M.A. Examination.**

3. **Examination and Plan of Work**: Questions or concerns about the portfolio’s contents and the student’s presentation are
addressed at the meeting. The range of possible questions is identical with that of the M.A. Examination. For students who entered without an M.A., the Plan of Work is a review of the Academic Course Plan (as well as the Doctoral Degree Audit; see above) that students are required to fill out with professorial guidance during their first year. For entering students with an M.A., the Plan of Work will produce the Academic Course Plan if they have not already had an Academic Course Plan meeting. Having examined the student’s previous coursework, the committee recommends further coursework, as needed.

If you are a doctoral student who entered the department without an M.A., you may choose to do the Qualifying Procedure as your M.A. Final Examination in order to earn the M.A. at this time (upon passing the exam, of course). As a reminder: To make this count as your M.A. Exam, you must schedule the M.A. Final Examination with the Graduate School. This involves meeting some paperwork deadlines and paying a graduation fee, check with the English Graduate Program Specialist and the Graduate School for dates. Please allow time to arrange for it.

The Qualifying Procedure is an in-house departmental procedure. There are two scenarios in which no paperwork needs to go to the Graduate School: first, if you entered with an M.A.; and, second, if you entered the doctoral program without an M.A. and wish to proceed with your doctoral work without receiving an M.A. from LSU. In these cases, the committee members should inform the Graduate Program Specialist when the student has satisfactorily completed the Qualifying Procedure.

**COURSE WORK**

At the Ph.D. level, there are three tracks with different course requirements for each: Literary Studies, Writing & Culture, and Linguistics. Each provides the flexibility to craft an individual
Academic Course Plan according to the student’s own research interests, with faculty guidance.

Every student entering without an MA must take the Graduate Pro-seminar (ENGL 7020); those entering with an MA should take it if they have not previously taken a similar graduate course in research methods. When requesting a waiver, the student should submit a copy of the syllabus to the Director of English Graduate Studies for evaluation. These requests are rarely approved because of the importance of 7020 in also developing expertise in key topics such as professionalization, publication, and collaboration.

Except for Linguistics, each track has period distribution requirements, which refer to the following five historical periods of Anglophone literature and culture: 1) before 1500, 2) 1500-1660, 3) 1660-1800, 4) British after 1800, 5) American after 1800. The Academic Course Plan committees (along with the DGS) will help students determine what courses satisfy what requirements because it is not always immediately obvious. For example, Anglophone post-colonial literature from Commonwealth countries could reasonably satisfy the post-1800 British requirement. One rationale for period distribution requirements is that, no matter what your concentration, you will likely enter an academic job market that defines assistant professor positions and major research publications largely by historical period.

Students who teach English composition courses must take ENGL 7915 during the semester they are assigned their first composition course, ENGL 1001. In the second semester, they are required to teach ENGL 2000 and attend three mentoring sessions. Any student in any track who has not taken a course in literary, cultural, or rhetorical theory must do so at the Ph.D. level. You must complete a minimum of 48 hours of graduate courses.

- **Literary Studies**
  - Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
• Three graduate courses from three different periods not included in the area of concentration. Because two of the designated periods are early (one before 1500 and the other 1500-1660) at least one course will end up being pre-1660.

• Five graduate courses from an area of concentration (British, American, Ethnic & Postcolonial, Southern Studies, African-American Studies, or Medieval and Renaissance Studies, etc.). This concentration usually but not always falls entirely within one of the historical periods outlined above.

• **Writing & Culture**
  o Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
  o Three graduate courses from three different periods not included in the area of concentration. Because two of the designated periods are early (one before 1500 and the other 1500-1660) at least one course will be pre-1660.
  o Five graduate courses from an area of concentration (Cultural Studies, Women’s & Gender Studies, Rhetorical Studies, and/or Composition Studies). This concentration often falls entirely within one of the historical periods outlined above.

• **English Linguistics**
  o Proseminar in Graduate Study (ENGL 7020)
  o Two courses in historical views of the English Language (ENGL 4711 and ENGL 7711)
  o At least six courses in Linguistics (If a student has taken ENGL 4711 as an undergraduate, he or she can take ENGL 7711 twice when the topic varies, or get permission from the DGS to take a different course.)
English 7915 (Teaching College Composition) is required for new teaching assistants teaching English composition at LSU. This course is taken concurrently with the first semester of teaching ENGL 1001.

Courses to be counted toward the Ph.D. degree must be at the 7000 level, except:

- 4000-level courses in linguistics and Old English, permitted with the consent of both your Major Professor and the DGS. These are the only 4000-level English classes for which English graduate students can receive graduate credit.
- 4000-level related courses in other departments (max. 9 hours) that are designated by the Graduate School as providing graduate credit and are considered graduate courses by the department in which they are taken. Check with the English Graduate Program Specialist to see if the university indicates that graduate credit can be given. Please offer verification to the DGS or the Director of Creative Writing that this course requires graduate students to do significantly more work than undergraduates also enrolled in the course. The Graduate School does not permit courses to be offered for graduate credit in the summer unless the same course provides graduate credit during regular semesters.

You must also complete at least nine hours of English 9000 (Dissertation Research). These nine hours do not count toward the minimum of 48 hours of graduate courses. Research hours are evaluated at the end of the semester by the supervising professor with a grade of S or U.

English 9000 should not be confused with 8900, the Independent Study. Independent Studies count as coursework. As with any course, an Independent Study must have a syllabus designed by the student and approved by the supervising professor and the Director of Graduate Studies. Unlike research hours, the Independent Study earns a letter
grade of A through F. Independent Studies should not duplicate regularly offered courses, and should be reserved for specialized work or rarely offered topics.

**GRADUATE MINORS**

If you have chosen a Graduate Minor, at least one of the three to five courses required in the minor field must be at the 7000-level or higher. If you choose a minor, you must do so before completing the Qualifying Procedure. You must ask a member of the graduate faculty from your minor department or program to become part of your committee. Your choice of minor may be:

- A minor in another department
- A split minor in two or more departments, one of which may be English (e.g., linguistics, American studies, comparative literature, critical theory, folklore, medieval studies, or gender studies)
- An internal minor (e.g. creative writing)

Students who choose minors often do so in order to gain knowledge germane to their dissertations. The program for an external minor, including the actual number of courses to be taken and the nature of the examination (if any), is determined by the minor field department or program, not English. Be aware that popular minors, such as the Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Minor, may have required courses that are only taught once yearly.

**MINORING IN ENGLISH**

A non-English Ph.D. student’s graduate minor in English is obtained by taking nine hours of graduate English courses and by including an English professor on the student’s Exam committees who will supervise the minor. The teaching practicum, 7915, does not count toward a minor focused on Rhetoric and Composition.
FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT
Every Ph.D. student must at a minimum earn **basic proficiency in reading criticism in one foreign language** or a reasonable equivalent (the latter to be determined by the Academic Course Plan Committee and/or the Qualifying Procedure Committee and approved by the DGS). It is our goal that this language be **genuinely useful to our students’ research**.

The choice of language(s) is based upon the student’s scholarly needs. The Qualifying Procedure Committee will determine a Ph.D. student’s language requirement during the Qualifying Procedure. Students who have decided on an area (or possible areas) of concentration should meet and consult with appropriate faculty members **before** their Qualifying Procedures, however, so that they can begin work on fulfilling their language requirement. Faculty recommendations should be submitted in writing and signed by at least two faculty members in the relevant field or fields. The Qualifying Procedure Committee will honor such recommendations, although it can ask that the student learn and additional language or languages, if appropriate (e.g., for the study of medieval or Renaissance literature). A committee that recommends more than two languages must submit a justification to the Director of Graduate Studies and a schedule for the student’s completion of the additional requirements. Students who feel unduly burdened may appeal to the Graduate Faculty through the Director of Graduate Studies.

**Students must complete at least one language requirement before taking their General Exams.** Any additional language requirements should be completed within two semesters after the General Exam. (Extensions may be permitted if circumstances warrant.)

Students cannot be required to learn languages not taught on this campus; however, students can voluntarily fulfill their language requirement at other institutions with the approval of their committee.
The Qualifying Procedure Committee may require different degrees of proficiency in a foreign language or languages, which are reflected in three alternate methods of fulfilling the requirement:

1. For basic proficiency in reading criticism (the minimum requirement), satisfactory performance (a grade of B or higher) in a foreign language literature course (fifth-semester course or higher) taken as a graduate student either at LSU or (upon approval of the DGS) at another institution. Some students use the summer to complete this requirement through a reading course designed for graduate students, but for those new to a language or refreshing a language after a long hiatus, an undergraduate sequence culminating in a fifth-semester course is the best route.

2. For more advanced proficiency in reading criticism and/or literature, satisfactory performance (a grade of B or higher) in a foreign language literature course at the 4000 or 7000 level taken as a graduate student either at LSU or (upon DGS approval) at another institution. (If the course is taken at LSU at the 7000 level, it can be credited as an elective toward the 48 hours of coursework required for the Ph.D.)

3. If such 4000- or 7000-level courses are not available on campus, the student may choose to do an independent-study reading course in the language with either an English professor or a faculty member from another department who knows the language. This independent-study option requires the approval of the DGS.

After the Qualifying Procedure, the chair of the Qualifying Procedure committee will inform the DGS of the student’s specific language requirement. When students have completed the foreign language requirement, they should notify the Graduate Program Specialist, who will place a certification of completion in their files.
If you are a native or near-native speaker of a language that your Academic Course Plan/Qualifying Committee recommends as your language requirement because it is relevant to your research, please see the DGS for an appropriate procedure (an exam given by a member of the Graduate Faculty). This exam process is available only for native or near-native speakers.

**GENERAL EXAM**

The General Exam is the two-hour oral examination required by the Graduate School for all doctoral candidates at LSU. It is to be taken within three semesters of having completed the Qualifying Procedure.

The oral examination will be based on:

1. **Three distinct bibliographies** on three areas related to the student’s possible dissertation topic. Students choose the three areas in collaboration with their three-person examining committees. Students should gather their committee of Graduate Faculty members and start developing these reading lists during their final semester of course work. Each bibliography should be created by the student and the appropriate committee member whose expertise is in that area. Generally, the professor guiding an individual list later writes the exam question for it. A three-person committee is required for every General Exam by the Graduate School (but it is permissible to have an additional member). Copies of completed bibliographies should be routed to committee members for approval and submitted to the English Graduate Office for DGS approval and filing. List lengths may vary, but each bibliography should include approximately 30-45 significant primary and secondary texts. As the student prepares for the General Exam, secondary bibliographies may be generated, building upon the original bibliographies. Together these lists will ideally form the beginning of a bibliography for writing the dissertation. Should the committee choose, it may
ask the student to submit such secondary bibliographies with his or her essays (see below). The students should typically expect to spend up to three or four months reading and synthesizing the listed works. By the end of the reading period, the student usually will have developed ideas that will translate into possible dissertation topics.

2. **Three 15-page documented essays** written by the student in response to exam questions based on the three bibliographies. Often the three examiners (the General Exam committee members) consult with students during the reading period in order to write questions that take into account the student’s developing research interests. Ideally, these essays can form the kernels of dissertation chapters, thus helping to streamline the time to degree. Students generally write these three essays in a total of six weeks or less.

3. **Two course syllabi** written by the student, one for a commonly taught introductory course that incorporates at least two of the three areas of interest, and another for a more advanced (e.g., 4000- or 7000-level) course in one of the specific areas of interest. The syllabi should contain the following: 1) course title, 2) list of required texts, 3) list of writing assignments and examination schedule, and 4) schedule of reading assignments and discussion topics. At the oral General Exam, the student should be prepared to talk about how these syllabi fit into his or her research interests, as expressed in the three essays.

The areas on which the student will be examined should be general, as this list suggests. (This list is by no means exhaustive):
- Medieval Literature
- Renaissance Literature
- Restoration and Eighteenth-century Literature
- British Romanticism
- British Victorian Literature
- Early American Literature
Nineteenth-century American Literature
Modernism
Postmodernism
African-American Literature
Biography and Autobiography
Critical Theory
Cultural Studies
Gender Studies
The Literature of Women
Postcolonial Studies
Southern Literature
Working-Class Studies
Science-Fiction Studies
Composition Theory
Rhetorical Studies
Media and Representation
A genre (such as drama, the novel, the epic, crime fiction)
A period genre (such as Renaissance Lyric or Restoration Comedy)
A period medium (such as nineteenth-century periodical literature)
Linguistics
Louisiana Folklore
Analytic Bibliography and Textual Editing
Other approved open areas

These broad areas should be coordinated and focused according to the research and teaching interests of the student, as supervised by the committee. Sample bibliographies are on file in the Graduate English office for your perusal, but your reading lists should reflect your own research interests.

**General Exam Procedural Guidelines.** General Exam Committees enjoy a high degree of autonomy, and students should consult extensively with their committee members to make sure that there is a clear understanding as to what seems most appropriate in each case.
Remember that you cannot schedule your general examination until you have completed your foreign language requirement. The examination schedule should be formally arranged by the committee and the student, taking into account the student’s responsibilities, such as teaching duties, beyond the examination preparation itself. Once the student has obtained the exam questions, sufficient time should be allotted for the student to complete the syllabi and essay assignments (typically three to six weeks).

The order of events is as follows:

1. Gather your three-person committee of Graduate Faculty, including a Major Professor. Each of the three professors should be expert in one of the three areas of interest you plan to be examined on. (The “Ph.D. Mentoring Document” on our website has useful suggestions about this process. See below for more technical information on the committee’s composition.) If you have a graduate minor, one of the two professors who is not your major professor will be your minor professor. This step typically occurs during the last semester of course work, when most students begin taking some research hours (ENGL 9000).

2. Begin developing your three reading lists in conjunction with the examining committee. Don’t spend more time on this than necessary.

3. Finalize your lists and seek their approval from all three committee members.

4. Give them to the English Graduate Program Specialist for formal approval routing to the committee and the DGS. The lists are then filed in the English Graduate Office.

5. Read and synthesize. Students usually spend a few months (but not more than one semester) reading and developing ideas.

6. Schedule your General Exam with the Graduate School within the timeframe established by your committee. Contact the members of your committee to find a workable date and time. Please note that the usual six weeks for writing essays, in
addition to the two weeks committees need to respond, means that the date you request should be eight weeks after your receive your questions. **Your questions will not be released to you until you have formally scheduled your General Exam with the Graduate School.**

7. The Dean of the Graduate School will send a representative (the Dean’s Rep) from outside the English Department to the exam. The Graduate School will inform you of your Dean’s Rep’s name and department.

8. Your committee will now include the Dean’s Rep, assigned by the Graduate School. This professor from outside the English Department (usually someone from a somewhat related field) becomes a full member of the committee. You now include the Dean’s Rep in every aspect of the committee's activities.

9. After hearing from you about where your work is moving, the appropriate committee members write the three sets of essay questions, which are routed to the entire committee by your director for approval, approved by the DGS, and filed in the English Graduate office. The committee should have the questions ready for you to pick up approximately six weeks prior to the due date for submission of essays to the committee for review.

10. Within the timeframe established by your committee, pick up your questions and write your exams. The time for writing the essays is usually set at six weeks.

11. Submit your essays and syllabi to all members of your committee, including the Dean's Rep, as well as the Graduate Program Specialist, a minimum of two weeks prior to the General Exam. Attend your General Exam ready to talk about your three essays and two syllabi, to answer questions about them, and to discuss the directions your research is going.

The preparation of the essays and syllabi ideally should take place during the same semester as the General Exam. The entire process
(developing the bibliographies, reading the listed materials, consulting with your committee, writing the essays and syllabi, and sitting for the oral General Exam) can be accomplished in one semester and should not take more than one year. **The General Exam must be scheduled with the Graduate School before the essay questions will be released to you.** It is your responsibility to contact the committee members and to organize a workable exam date and time.

Prior to the General Exam, check to make sure that you have taken the courses listed on your Academic Course Plan and enter this information in the required section of the **Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Exam** form. Financial support decisions may hinge on timely completion of the General Exam (see Department Policies on Financial Support below).

The Graduate School recognizes only the grades of Pass or Fail for any General Exam, and such a grade should be submitted by your Major professor on the Graduate School’s Approval Sheets (Doctoral Exam result cards) to the Graduate School through the English Department Graduate Program Specialist on the day of the Exam (or by the following business day).

For in-house departmental purposes, the Exam Committee may decide to award the grade of Pass with Distinction. Students who fail the exam may take it again the next semester. A second failure is final.

**The General Exam committee**, with the addition of a Dean's Representative appointed by the Graduate School, usually continues (sometimes with modifications) as the dissertation committee. It must include at least four Graduate Faculty members meeting the following requirements:

- Doctoral committees must include a minimum of one member of the Graduate faculty from the English Department. The Major Professor acts as Committee Chair.
• At least one member of the committee must be a Full Member of the Graduate Faculty.
• At least half of those serving on the committee must be tenured or tenure-track.
• One of the four members is the Dean's Representative appointed by the Graduate School. The committee will be nominated by the English Department (except for the Dean's Representative) and officially appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School.

In American universities, students who have completed the General Exam are typically called Ph.D. Candidates and are known as ABD (All But Dissertation). The designation Ph.D. Candidate is not normally applied or used in correspondence until this point in your graduate career.

DISSERTATION
By far your most important task as a Ph.D. candidate is writing your dissertation, the subject of which may come from any aspect of English studies. The General Catalog states that the dissertation "must demonstrate a mastery of research techniques, ability to do original and independent research, and skill in formulating conclusions that in some way enlarge upon or modify accepted ideas." The dissertation is usually about 200 pages long, although some dissertations are longer (but rarely shorter), depending on the topic. Consult your Major Professor for advice concerning an appropriate length for your dissertation. In addition, read the Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations, which is available from the LSU Graduate School.

The Pre-Dissertation Conference is a one-hour meeting of the doctoral candidate and dissertation committee members to discuss dissertation plans. This meeting should take place by the middle of the
semester following the General Examination. You may prefer to schedule it as soon as one month after the General Exam. The dissertation committee usually requires a **prospectus** or other written materials before this meeting. Although the Graduate School considers a student to be officially ABD upon passing the General Exam, the department considers the pre-dissertation conference to be an important final step in satisfying all degree requirements prior to the dissertation itself. Note that the pre-dissertation conference, unlike the General Exam, is an in-house departmental procedure not required by the Graduate School. Therefore it is not mandatory that the Dean’s Representative from the General Exam be included. However, the committee chair may choose, as a matter of courtesy, to invite the Dean’s Rep to take part.

After the student has successfully completed the pre-dissertation conference, the chair and members of the student’s committee should submit a letter to that effect to the English Graduate Program Specialist, who will place it in the student’s file.

**Dissertation Research**

With the help of your Major Professor, select and focus your subject, then determine the research procedures appropriate to developing and completing it. When registering for dissertation research (ENGL 9000) hours each semester, you will need to arrange a schedule with your Major Professor for expected work and progress.

Before embarking upon the dissertation, the student should meet with the Major Professor and each member of the Dissertation Committee in order to agree upon a procedure for submission and revision of preliminary drafts of written work. The student is responsible throughout the course of the project for communicating with committee members and for soliciting their response to drafts of written work. When a draft of the dissertation has been finished and no further revisions are required by the Major Professor, the student should submit
a copy of the entire work to each member of the Committee, allowing sufficient time to implement suggested revisions in a timely manner. **Ph.D. candidates are expected to address these revisions in a completed draft before the Final Examination may be scheduled.**

Be sure to comply with the Residence Requirement (full-time registration for at least two consecutive semesters, not counting summers) and the Continuous Registration Requirement (registration for at least three credit hours every Fall and Spring semester from the semester in which you pass the General Exam until your dissertation is approved).

**Dissertation Deadlines**
When scheduling your General Exam and writing your dissertation, keep in mind key Graduate School regulations. The program for the doctoral degree must be completed within seven years from the time a student is classified as a doctoral student. The time limit may not be exceeded except by special permission (which is rarely given) from the Dean of the Graduate School. No less than one academic year may elapse between the passing of the General Examination and the completion of all requirements for the doctoral degree. In other words, you are not permitted to delay your General Exam until you are almost done with your dissertation.

**Final Examination (the Dissertation Defense)**
The last requirement for the Ph.D. degree is the oral Final Examination. This is the traditional defense of the dissertation, conducted by your dissertation committee. This committee is the same one (sometimes with modifications) that administered your General Examination. This exam should not be scheduled until your Major Professor has approved a final version of the Dissertation. The Graduate School defines the
Final Exam as the occasion for the dissertation committee to make a Pass/Fail verdict on the dissertation as a completed work, not an occasion at which to suggest further revisions. All revisions (beyond correcting minor typographical errors and the like) should be complete before the Final Exam is held. The doctoral exam result cards on which committee members record that the student has passed or failed the Final Exam should be forwarded to the Graduate School by the Major Professor (through the English Graduate Program Specialist) on the day of the exam (or at least by the morning of the following business day).

Final Examination Deadlines

Visit the Graduate School one semester before you plan to defend your dissertation. You will receive a packet outlining relevant deadlines and procedures concerning official requests for the exam and the degree. The Final Exam must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance through the filing of a form designed to confirm the members of the Final Exam Committee. This form is found on the Graduate School’s website.

You are responsible for distributing the final version of the dissertation to the members of your committee (including the Dean's Representative) at least two weeks before your Final Exam. This exam must be scheduled very early in the semester you plan to graduate (check deadlines in the General Catalog), or later in the semester before your semester of graduation. When scheduling your Final Exam, you should also be aware that faculty are not routinely available during the Summer term.

DEPARTMENT POLICY ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Assistantships
All Graduate Assistantships are offered on a one-year renewable basis. A student's assistantship may be terminated at the end of any given year if there is evidence of unsatisfactory progress toward a degree and/or
evidence of unsatisfactory performance of the work assignment associated with the student's aid.

You must be a full-time student in good academic standing to hold any graduate assistantship. You must have 18 graduate credit hours in English to be the instructor of record in your own course; however, you do not need 18 hours of credit for editorial or research assistantships, or for an assistantship that requires you to assist a professor in a large lecture class. You must take ENGL 7915 during your first semester of teaching English composition at LSU. The countdown of maximum years of eligibility for graduate assistantships begins the semester you first matriculated as a graduate student in your program, and whether you received support that first semester or not; these limits are based on making expected progress toward your degree.

- M.A. students have 2 years of eligibility.
- M.F.A. students have 3 years of eligibility.
- Ph.D. students who entered their program with English M.A.s have 4 years of eligibility. These students may petition the department for a fifth-year extension of support if, by the end of the student's seventh regular semester (after 3 ½ years), the student has passed the General Examination. This is known in the department as “extra-year funding.”
- Ph.D. students who enter without English M.A.s may receive assistantships for up to 6 years. These students may petition the department for a seventh-year extension if, by the end of the student's eleventh semester (after 5½ years), the student has passed the General Examination. This is known in the department as “extra-year funding.” Typically Ph.D. students may receive assistantships for no more than 4 semesters after the semester in which they complete their General Exams.
**Fellowships**
Since the University limits the number of years of fellowship support, you are encouraged to use these years efficiently to avoid prolonged study without financial aid.

M.F.A. students on university fellowships are generally given 3 years of fellowship support.

Ph.D. students on Regents or Perkins fellowships are generally given 3 to 4 years of fellowship support.

**Outside Employment**
The Graduate School limits additional compensation for students holding assistantships to five hours a week. You must receive permission for those five hours from your major professor, the DGS, and the Graduate School. Accepting a teaching position at other schools while a G.A. violates contract and is grounds for losing the assistantship.

**Summer School Tuition Exemption**
English graduate students on assistantship during Fall and Spring semesters have usually been eligible for Summer school tuition exemptions even if they aren’t assigned teaching duties during that term. They often use the summer to fulfill their language requirements. They may also be eligible for part-time Summer Instructor positions. The DGS will send out announcements for these and other competitive assignments.
Appendix A: English Department Graduate Grading System

A: Full command of material covered, active participation in the course, produced work demonstrating original thought and exhibiting polished, full professional command of the subject and the assigned presentational mode(s).

B: Good grasp of material covered, adequate engagement in the course, produced work demonstrating some original thought but requiring further development in order to demonstrate full, professional command of the subject and/or presentational mode used.

C: Minimally acceptable grasp of material covered, weak overall participation in the course, produced work requiring significant revision before it could be considered to conform to full professional standards.

Note: the Graduate School allows no more than 6 hours of credit earned at LSU with a grade of C to be applied toward a degree. No credit hours from elsewhere with a grade of C may be applied toward an LSU degree.

P/F: Indicates Pass/Fail option. Ph.D. students who choose to take a foreign language course in order to meet the language requirement may choose this option.

S/U: Indicates Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory performance. The professor directing your Thesis/Dissertation hours will assign a grade of “S" or "U" according to your performance. Note: the Graduate School stipulates that a student receiving a “U” in research will be placed on probation. A student receiving a second “U” may be dropped from the Graduate School.
Appendix B: M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in English

M.A. AND PH.D. PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH

M.A. LEVEL (30-33 hrs)
- 3 hrs Pro-Seminar (theory and research methods)
- 3 hrs 7915 Practicum for composition teachers
  (required for GTAs)

LITERARY STUDIES
Concentrations:
1. General Literary Studies
   (individually tailored)
2. British Literature
3. American Literature
4. Ethnic & Postcolonial Literature
5. Southern Studies
6. African-American Studies
7. Medieval & Renaissance Studies
- 3 hrs from 2 periods, excluding concentration:
  • Lit/culture before 1500
  • Lit/culture 1500-1660
  • Lit/culture 1666-1800
  • Brit lit/culture after 1800
  • Am lit/culture after 1800

ENGLISH LINGUISTICS
- 3 hrs 4711 History of the English Language
- 3 hrs Old or Middle English

WRITING & CULTURE
- 3 hrs from 2 periods:
  • Lit/culture before 1500
  • Lit/culture 1500-1660
  • Lit/culture 1666-1800
  • Brit lit/culture after 1800
  • Am lit/culture after 1800

Concentrations:
1. Cultural Studies
2. Women's & Gender Studies
3. Rhetorical Studies
4. Composition Studies

9 hrs concentration (with Linguistics as its own concentration)
- 6 hrs electives
- 6 hrs master's thesis or non-thesis option electives

ACADEMIC COURSE PLAN Meeting
(1st or 2nd semester for Ph.D. only)

MASTER'S EXAM (4th semester for M.A. only)
and/or
PH.D. QUALIFYING PROCEDURE (4th-6th semester)

Ph.D. LEVEL (MA + 15-18 hrs = 48 hrs)
- 3 hrs additional period distribution requirement, pre-1660 if not taken already (Linguistics exempted)
- 3 hrs literary, cultural, or rhetorical theory
- 6 hrs concentration (9 hrs Linguistics)
- 3-6 hrs electives (in consultation with advisor)

Foreign Language Requirement

PH.D. GENERAL EXAM (within 3 semesters of Qualifying Procedure)

DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS / PRE-DISSERTATION CONFERENCE (semester after General Exam)

DISSERTATION

PH.D. FINAL EXAMINATION (DEFENSE)
# Appendix C: Timeline for the Ph.D. Program

## Ph.D. Timeline (entering with M.A.)

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<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>Fulfill Foreign Language requirement (if possible)**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare for Academic Course Plan by identifying possible committee members and looking at worksheet (available on website)</td>
<td>Complete Academic Course Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin Foreign Language requirement if necessary</td>
<td>Contact probable General Examination director and committee members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign up for mentoring program (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>Complete Coursework</td>
<td>Fulfill Foreign Language requirement, if not already done**</td>
<td>Reading for General Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 3rd Semester Review with DCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalize General Examination Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin to draft Reading Lists for the General Exam</td>
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<th>Third Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading for General Exams</td>
<td>Complete General Exam</td>
<td>Work on Dissertation Proposal/Dissertation</td>
<td>Identify dissertation grants and fellowships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination</td>
<td>Complete Dissertation Proposal and Schedule Pre-Dissertation Conference Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete General Exam (possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin dissertation proposal (possible)</td>
<td>Schedule 6th-Semester Review with Director and DCS</td>
<td>Develop job search material</td>
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<th>Fourth Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertating</td>
<td>Dissertating</td>
<td>Support Ends – (final pay disbursement in May)</td>
<td>Complete dissertation and schedule defense for Graduation in August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attend Job Placement meetings and workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply for jobs</td>
<td>If dissertation incomplete: Apply for extra-year funding in the English department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply for fellowships and post-docs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Grad School packet on deadlines and procedures for the Final Exam</td>
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**If you register for summer coursework, at least one half of the total credits must be at the graduate level. Please see the Graduate Program Specialist for more information.
## Ph.D. Timeline (entering with B.A.)

### First Year

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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### Second Year

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<td>Contact probable General Examination director and committee members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 3rd-Semester Review with DGS</td>
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### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Coursework</td>
<td>Approval of Reading Lists</td>
<td>Reading for General Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize General Examination Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin to draft Reading Lists for the General Exam</td>
<td>Schedule 6th-Semester Review with Director and DGS</td>
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### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading for General Exams</td>
<td>Complete General Exam</td>
<td>Work on Dissertation Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Doctoral Degree Audit and Request for General Examination Complete General Exam (possible)</td>
<td>Begin dissertation proposal (possible)</td>
<td>Identify dissertation grants and fellowships</td>
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### Fifth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete Dissertation Proposal and Schedule Pre-Dissertation Conference Meeting</td>
<td>Dissertating</td>
<td>Develop job search material</td>
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### Sixth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dissertating</td>
<td>Dissertating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Job Placement meetings and workshops</td>
<td>Support Ends – (final pay disbursement in May)</td>
<td>Complete dissertation and schedule defense for Graduation in August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply for jobs</td>
<td>If dissertation incomplete: Apply for extra-year funding in the English department</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply for fellowships and post-docs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Get Grad School packet on deadlines and procedures for the Final Exam</td>
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**If you register for summer coursework, at least one half of the total credits must be at the graduate level. Please see the Graduate Program Specialist for more information.
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### GRADUATE SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main Office</td>
<td>578-2236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Program Specialist</td>
<td>578-5922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Thibodeaux</td>
<td><a href="mailto:athib13@lsu.edu">athib13@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>578-7803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Massé</td>
<td><a href="mailto:egs@lsu.edu">egs@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>578-0809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsie Michie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:english@lsu.edu">english@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Creative Writing</td>
<td>578-3049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Mullen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmullen@lsu.edu">lmullen@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Undergraduate Studies</td>
<td>578-3042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Berman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jberman@lsu.edu">jberman@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of University Writing Program</td>
<td>578-3040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Heifferon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bheiffe@lsu.edu">bheiffe@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asst. Dir. of University Writing Program</td>
<td>578-9022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Mullin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amullin@lsu.edu">amullin@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Office Manager</td>
<td>578-0809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Landry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rland26@lsu.edu">rland26@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Placement Officer</td>
<td>578-2987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bibler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbibler@lsu.edu">mbibler@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Advisor</td>
<td>578-2879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallavi Rastogi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prastogi@lsu.edu">prastogi@lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
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