

English Department
Master of Arts in English
Assessment Plan 2007

Program: English Department, Master of Arts
Plan prepared by Karen Gindele, Director, fall 2004-summer 2007
Contact for assessment: Margaret Scanlan, Director fall 2007-

I. Program's goals:

Graduate students in English should develop the following skills and examples of work:

1. Scholarly paper doing relevant research from a coherent theoretical position
2. Ability to define an area of inquiry in a course, in a project, and its relation to the field at large
3. Ability to place one's creative work in a tradition
4. Awareness of current state and relevant issues of a defined body of scholarship
5. Substantial original or independent work on a writer, a period, or a genre
6. Contribution to the exchange of ideas in the classroom using the tools of the field
7. Ability to present one's ideas, written and oral, to a small group
8. Pursuit of complex thinking
9. Participation in discussions of the field (e.g., attending a conference, presenting a paper at a graduate conference; editing; publishing original work on the web; running a reading or speaker series; reading one's own work)
10. Advanced use of disciplinary knowledge and terms

II. Assessment Techniques

1. Direct measures:

- Portfolio papers (annual review of students' work and progress)
 - L501 Professional Scholarship in Literature (research paper)
 - L502 Contexts for the Study of Writing (research paper or project)
 - Literary analysis (substantial essay from one elective)
 - Creative Writing (substantial work from one elective)
 - W609 Directed Writing Project

Progress report checklist: the Director of the Program and the Committee on Graduate Studies in English, in consultation with graduate faculty in a given semester, evaluate the student's preparedness to

- 1) sustain work on a longer paper or project
- 2) revise work substantially
- 3) conduct research

Study Plan (mainly for advising purposes), identifying progress in coursework towards degree requirements

b. Indirect measures:

- student survey (current students), under consideration
- exit interview, under consideration
- alumni survey, under consideration

External review every five years

Alumni surveys, exit interviews being considered