



# English Graduate Guidelines

2023- 2024

308 Morrill

MA in English

## Graduate Program Personnel

### Graduate Director

Stephanie Link  
405-744-6232  
109D Morrill Hall  
[steph.link@okstate.edu](mailto:steph.link@okstate.edu)

### Assistant to Graduate Director

Brenda Maxwell  
405-744-9469  
308 Morrill Hall  
[brenda.maxwell@okstate.edu](mailto:brenda.maxwell@okstate.edu)

Graduate Office email: [englishgrad@okstate.edu](mailto:englishgrad@okstate.edu)

### English Department Head

Jeff Menne  
405-744-6140  
205B Morrill Hall  
[jeff.menne@okstate.edu](mailto:jeff.menne@okstate.edu)

### Associate Department Head

Kate Hallemeier  
405-744-5487  
206 Morrill Hall  
[katherin.hallemeier@okstate.edu](mailto:katherin.hallemeier@okstate.edu)

## Program Directors

### TESL/Linguistics

Carol Moder  
405-744-9471  
211C Morrill Hall  
[carol.moder@okstate.edu](mailto:carol.moder@okstate.edu)

### Rhetoric and Writing Studies

TBD

### Literature

Lisa Hollenbach  
405-744-6227  
311C Morrill Hall  
[lisa.hollenbach@okstate.edu](mailto:lisa.hollenbach@okstate.edu)

### Creative Writing

Lisa Lewis  
405-744-1470  
107B Morrill Hall  
[lisa.lewis@okstate.edu](mailto:lisa.lewis@okstate.edu)

### Screen Studies

Jeff Menne (Fall 2022)  
405-744-6228  
311A Morrill Hall  
[jeff.menne@okstate.edu](mailto:jeff.menne@okstate.edu)

## Graduate Studies Committee

The Graduate Studies Committee consists of a representative from each of three areas:

**Area A: Literature**  
TBD

**Area B: TESOL/Linguistics, Rhetoric and Writing Studies**  
TBD

### Area C: Screen Studies, Creative Writing

Aimee Parkison  
405-744-6644  
109C Morrill Hall  
[aimee.parkison@okstate.edu](mailto:aimee.parkison@okstate.edu)

The Graduate Director is a non-voting member.

## The Graduate Faculty

See the English Department online faculty directory and telephone information:

<https://english.okstate.edu/people/faculty-profiles>

<b>Michael Amory, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:michael.amory@okstate.edu">michael.amory@okstate.edu</a> Pennsylvania State University	Applied Linguistics
<b>Andrew Belton, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:andrew.belton@okstate.edu">andrew.belton@okstate.edu</a> University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	African Diaspora
<b>An Cheng, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:an.cheng@okstate.edu">an.cheng@okstate.edu</a> Pennsylvania State University	Phonetics, Phonology, Writing Theory & Practices Applied Linguistics
<b>Sarah Beth Childers, MFA</b> <a href="mailto:sarah.beth.childers@okstate.edu">sarah.beth.childers@okstate.edu</a> West Virginia University	Creative Writing: Nonfiction
<b>Dinah Cox, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:dinah.cox@okstate.edu">dinah.cox@okstate.edu</a> Oklahoma State University	Creative Writing: Fiction
<b>William Decker, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:william.decker@okstate.edu">william.decker@okstate.edu</a> University of Iowa	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Literature American Literature Nonfiction
<b>Elizabeth Grubgeld, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:elizabeth.grubgeld@okstate.edu">elizabeth.grubgeld@okstate.edu</a> University of Iowa	British and Irish Literature Post 1900 Life Writing
<b>Cailey Hall, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:cailey.hall@okstate.edu">cailey.hall@okstate.edu</a> UCLA	Long Eighteenth Century Anglophone Literature
<b>Katherine Hallemeier, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:katherine.hallemeier@okstate.edu">katherine.hallemeier@okstate.edu</a> Queens University	Postcolonial Literature
<b>Lisa Hollenbach, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:lisa.hollenbach@okstate.edu">lisa.hollenbach@okstate.edu</a> University of Wisconsin – Madison	American Poetry Post 1900
<b>Alyssa Hunziker, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:alyssa.hunziker@okstate.edu">alyssa.hunziker@okstate.edu</a> University of Florida	Native American and Indigenous Literatures

## English Graduate Guidelines 2023 - 2024

<b>Shelby Johnson, PhD</b> Vanderbilt University <a href="mailto:shelby.i.johnson@okstate.edu">shelby.i.johnson@okstate.edu</a>	English Literature
<b>Edward Jones, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:edward.jones@okstate.edu">edward.jones@okstate.edu</a> Ohio University	Renaissance British Literature Milton
<b>Stephanie Jones, PhD</b> Syracuse University <a href="mailto:sjones61@okstate.edu">sjones61@okstate.edu</a>	Composition and Cultural Rhetoric
<b>Gene Kwak, MFA</b> University of Massachusetts <a href="mailto:gene.kwak@okstate.edu">gene.kwak@okstate.edu</a>	Creative Writing: Fiction
<b>Lisa Lewis, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:lisa.lewis@okstate.edu">lisa.lewis@okstate.edu</a> University of Houston	Creative Writing: Poetry
<b>Lynn Lewis, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:lynn.lewis@okstate.edu">lynn.lewis@okstate.edu</a> University of Oklahoma	Visual Rhetoric, Literacy, Multimodal Composition, Critical Pedagogy and Technology
<b>Stephanie Link, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:steph.link@okstate.edu">steph.link@okstate.edu</a> Iowa State University	TESOL Applied Linguistics
<b>Sara Loss, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:sara.loss@okstate.edu">sara.loss@okstate.edu</a> University of Minnesota	Linguistics
<b>Reanae McNeal, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:reanae.mcneal@okstate.edu">reanae.mcneal@okstate.edu</a> Texas Women's University	Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies
<b>Jeff Menne, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:jeff.menne@okstate.edu">jeff.menne@okstate.edu</a> Vanderbilt University	Screen Studies – American
<b>Carol Moder, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:carol.moder@okstate.edu">carol.moder@okstate.edu</a> The State University of New York – Buffalo	Linguistics TESOL
<b>Timothy Murphy, PhD</b> <a href="mailto:tim.murphy@okstate.edu">tim.murphy@okstate.edu</a> UCLA	Post 1900 Literature and Cultural Studies Critical Theory

## English Graduate Guidelines 2023 - 2024

**Aimee Parkison, MFA**

[aimee@okstate.edu](mailto:aimee@okstate.edu)

Cornell University

Creative Writing: Fiction

**Chelsea Silva, PhD**

[chelsea.silva@okstate.edu](mailto:chelsea.silva@okstate.edu)

University of California – Riverside

British Literature and Culture Pre-1500's

**Lindsey Smith, PhD**

[lindsey.smith@okstate.edu](mailto:lindsey.smith@okstate.edu)

University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill

American and American Indian Literatures

**Stacy Takacs, PhD**

[stacy.takacs@okstate.edu](mailto:stacy.takacs@okstate.edu)

Indiana University

American Cultural Studies

Television Studies

**Graig Uhlin, PhD**

[grraig.uhlin@okstate.edu](mailto:grraig.uhlin@okstate.edu)

New York University

Screen Studies

**Lindsay Wilhelm, PhD**

[lindsay.wilhelm@okstate.edu](mailto:lindsay.wilhelm@okstate.edu)

UCLA

British and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Anglophone Literature

# MA in English

## Contents

<b>APPLICATION AND ADMISSION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED MATERIALS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
English Proficiency (non-native speakers) .....	9
Changing Areas of Specialization .....	9
<b>GRADUATE COLLEGE RULES AND REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MA TIMELINE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
First Year .....	10
Second and Third Years .....	10
<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Required Courses .....	11
Introduction to Graduate Studies .....	11
Methods Courses for Teaching Assistants .....	11
Linguistics and Applied Linguistics/TESOL Curricula .....	11
Electives .....	11
Transfer Hours .....	11
Independent Study .....	11
End of Semester Evaluations .....	12
Grade of “Incomplete” .....	12
<b>LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Methods of Demonstrating Proficiency .....	13
Petition for Alternative Method of Demonstrative Proficiency .....	13

Reading Knowledge May be Demonstrated in any of the Following Ways .....	13
Scheduling the Translation Test .....	13
<b>ADVISOR AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....</b>	<b>14</b>
Required form (Departmental Advisory Committee) .....	14
Advisor .....	14
Advisory Committee .....	14
Committee Changes.....	14
<b>PLAN OF STUDY .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Planning Meeting .....	14
Required form (Plan of Study).....	14
Plan of Study Changes .....	15
Ten Year Rule .....	15
Checklist for Plan of Study .....	15
<b>MA QUALIFYING EXAMINATION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
MA Qualifying Examination Prerequisites.....	15
Required form (Notice of Intent) .....	15
Exam Areas .....	15
Exam Format .....	16
Preparations .....	16
Evaluation .....	16
Notification of Results.....	16
Retakes .....	16
Appeals .....	16
<b>THESIS.....</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>Prerequisites .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Traditional Thesis Format .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Literature Portfolio Format .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Thesis Committee .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Prospectus .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Reading Procedure .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Deadlines .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Style .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Defense Copy (Final Draft) .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Final Copy .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>THESIS DEFENSE .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Required Form (Intent to Defend) .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Defense .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Required form (Results of Final Defense) .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>GRADUATION .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>LENGTH OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>INELIGIBILITY FOR THE MA DEGREE .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>APPEALS AND PETITIONS .....</b>	<b>20</b>



## MA in English

The general MA in English allows students to develop expertise in a variety of areas: Anglophone Literatures, Critical Theory, Screen Studies, Rhetoric and Writing Studies, Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). In consultation with their advisory committees, students devise and individualized curriculum that reflects their own intellectual interests and prepares them to enter a PhD program or to teach at the college level.

The General MA in English consists of 30 credit hours, which includes six hours of thesis. In addition to these hours, students must demonstrate reading knowledge of a language other than English, pass the MA Qualifying Examination (Literature students and Rhetoric and Writing Studies students do not take an exam), and successfully defend a thesis.

Students must complete all requirements for the MA degree within seven years from their first enrollment in the courses for the MA program

### Application and Admission

Admission to the MA program in English requires a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited institution of higher learning. Other qualifications and application materials appear below. Applicants should be mindful that meeting the minimum standards for admission *does not* guarantee admission.

#### Application Deadlines:

- **Fall** – January 5 priority deadline with March 1 final deadline
- **Spring** – October 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Note:** Deadline for International students applying for Spring Admission is **August 1**.

All students will apply through the Graduate College website: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/apply/>. All of the required documents and materials will be uploaded to the electronic application

### Application Qualifications and Required Materials

- **GPA** Applicants should have an undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, particularly in English courses.
- **Undergraduate Major** Applicants must have an undergraduate degree appropriate to the specialization they will follow. For the specialization in Literature, they must have a minimum of 24 hours in English (excluding first year composition). Applicants must submit transcripts.
- **Recommendations** Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation
- **Statement of Purpose** Applicants must submit a written statement of approximately 250 words that identifies a proposed area of study, reasons for undertaking graduate study in this area, relevant work experience, and future career plans.
- **Writing Sample** Applicants must submit a writing sample: a 7 to 15 page paper written for an upper-level course in an appropriate area of study.

***The GRE exam is not required but students who have GRE scores are encouraged to submit them.***

## **English Proficiency (non-native speakers)**

**Please note:** The English Department admission requirements are **HIGHER** than Graduate College admission requirements.

**\*\*We Do Not Accept Duolingo English Proficiency results**

**Applicants who are not native speakers of English *must* submit current scores from one of the following:**

- **TOEFL ibt** – minimum overall score of 100, with minimum reading and writing subskill scores of 26
- **TOEFL** (paper-based) - minimum overall score of 600
- **IELTS** - minimum overall score of 7.0, with minimum reading and writing band scores of 7.0

Please refer to the English Department website at: <http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/applications-and-admissions> , for more information.

**Changing Areas of Specialization:** Students are admitted in particular areas of specialization. If a student wishes to move from one area of specialization to another *within* the general MA (such as from Literature to Screen Studies) or to move from one MA degree program into another MA degree program (such as the General MA in English to the MA with Option in Professional Writing), the student must submit an application to the English Graduate Office and receive approval for that change from the Admissions Committee. The application must include a new statement of purpose and a new writing sample, which will be considered along with the rest of the student's graduate file. Since this application will be an internal English Department matter, students will not have to pay an application fee. If the Admissions Committee does not grant the request, the student will still have the option of continuing in the area of specialization into which he or she was admitted.

## **Graduate College Rules and Regulations**

There are many rules and regulations affecting graduate enrollment, tenure, examinations, theses, and dissertations that are made by the Graduate Faculty of Oklahoma State University rather than the English Department. Among the rules students should familiarize themselves with are those governing academic dishonesty or misconduct, especially those dealing with plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become informed about all English Department, Graduate College, and University regulations.

The Oklahoma State University Catalog should be read closely by all those who are considering, or participating in, graduate studies in English at Oklahoma State University. Copies are available online at: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/University-Catalog>.

## MA Timeline

### First Year

**By the end of the second semester of enrollment (excluding summer sessions) the student must have:**

- Taken the appropriate **ENGL 5013**: Introduction to Graduate Studies or, for Screen Studies students, **ENGL 5363**: Critical Approaches to Screen Studies: Theory and History.
- Chosen an **advisor** and **advisory committee** and submitted the Departmental Advisory Committee Form to the English Graduate Office (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>)
- Met with the committee and discussed the **plan of study**, which should then be filed online at the Graduate College (<https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>)

### Second and Third Years

**Before being eligible to graduate, students must have:**

- Completed all required coursework, for a total of 24 credit hours (see “Course Requirements”).
- Completed the **language requirement** (if not completed during the first year) and submitted appropriate documentation to the English Graduate Office. The language requirement must be completed before taking the MA Qualifying Examination or defending a thesis.
- Taken the **MA Qualifying Examination** (except those specializing in Literature or Rhetoric and Writing Studies). Submit a **Notice of Intent to take the MA Qualifying Examination form** to the English Graduate Office by the end of the second week of classes in which the exam is to be taken. (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms> ).
- Filed a revised Plan of Study (if applicable) at the beginning of the intended semester of graduation. <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>
- Completed the **Thesis** (traditional or literature portfolio) and **Thesis Defense**.
  - MA candidates writing a traditional thesis should submit a prospectus (approx. 1000 words) to the English Graduate Office no later than the first semester they are enrolled in thesis hours.
  - Submit a completed Intent to Defend form before the end of the second week of classes in the semester in which the defense is to be held (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>).
  - Write and submit the thesis according to the format guidelines in the current Graduate College Manual (<https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>).
  - Submit the Results of Final Defense Form to the English Graduate Office and the Graduate College immediately following the defense (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>).
- Completed the Application for Graduation and Graduation Clearance Form (<https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>). If your graduation is delayed you must fill out a Diploma Application Extension Form at <http://registrar.okstate.edu/Forms>. Meet all other Graduate College deadlines and requirements.

## Course Requirements

**Required Courses:** In order to provide the flexibility necessary for an individual MA student's emphasis in period or genre studies, Screen Studies, Linguistics/TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), or Composition/Rhetoric, the Department requires one course of all general MA students, **ENGL 5013: Introduction to Graduate Studies (for Screen studies students ENGL 5363: Critical Approaches to Screen Studies)** The following requirements govern MA course work.

**Introduction to Graduate Studies:** Either **ENGL 5013: Introduction to Graduate Studies** or, for Screen Studies students, **ENGL 5363: Critical Approaches to Screen Studies**, is required of all students during their first year in the master's program. Students who believe they have already taken a course equivalent to ENGL 5013 or ENGL 5363 may petition the Graduate Director to this requirement waived. The student's petition should include a letter asking for the waiver and containing reasons for the request, a copy of the syllabus from the previous course, and any papers or assignments done for that course. The Graduate Director will pass the request to those professors teaching ENGL 5013 and ENGL 5363 for an evaluation and request a written recommendation. Upon receiving the recommendation, the Graduate Director will affirm or deny the petition and notify the student and the student's advisor by email. Each case will be judged on its own merits, regardless of whether the same course number at the same institution has been recommended as an equivalent course before.

**Methods Courses for Teaching Assistants:** Teaching assistants must take an appropriate pedagogy course or courses in their first semester of teaching at Oklahoma State University. These hours may be counted as part of the total hours of course work.

**Linguistics and Applied Linguistics/TESOL Curricula:** In addition to other requirements, students focusing on Linguistics must take nine hours as a core on which to build further study. These courses include: **ENGL 5143** Descriptive Linguistics), **ENGL 5133** (Phonetics and Phonology), and **ENGL 5153** (Syntax). Students focusing on Applied Linguistics/TESOL must take **ENGL 5143** (Descriptive Linguistics) and additional courses as required by their advisory committee.

**Electives:** Students choose the remaining hours of course work in consultation with their advisory committees. Course selection should take into account the student's thesis subject, professional goals, and preparation for the MA Qualifying Examination (if required).

**Transfer Hours:** Students may transfer up to nine graduate hours from another university granting a master's degree in English. A student's advisory committee shall determine the number of hours of transfer credit to be awarded. If a student uses the hours for a degree at the previous institution, the hours are not applicable to the MA degree at OSU.

**Independent Study:** Independent Study courses may be occasionally arranged with an instructor when no regular graduate course on the desired topic is available during the student's expected tenure. Each of the two course numbers (ENGL 5120 and ENGL 6120) may be used for up to six credit hours per semester and no more than nine hours total per course number. All students requesting an Independent Study course must hold a meeting with their advisory committee and receive approval by the members of the committee. Special forms must be used by those who wish to enroll in such courses. **These forms are available on the forms page of the English Graduate website. This form should be submitted no later than the end of the first week of graduate enrollment period prior to the semester in which the Independent Study course is taken.** A student who has completed their second semester in a degree program (excluding summer sessions) but does not have an approved plan of study on file in the Graduate College may not arrange an Independent Study.

**The Graduate Studies Committee will evaluate applications for Independent Study in accordance with the following criteria and procedure:**

1. Has the student's advisory committee approved the course?
2. Has the student taken regularly offered courses related to the subject?
3. Is the Independent Study unlikely to have a negative impact on enrollment in concurrent or immediately subsequent course offerings?
4. Does the Independent Study fill a gap in the student's curriculum? Or is the specific course content unlikely to be offered during the student's expected tenure?
5. Are the materials clearly listed?
6. Is the work appropriate for the number of credit hours requested?
7. Is the list of assignments and percentages awarded to each clearly explained?
8. Is the schedule of conferences sufficiently specific?

If all eight questions may be answered affirmatively, the Graduate Director will send a written notice by email to the proposed instructor, who will then inform the student.

If one or more questions cannot be answered affirmatively, the Graduate Director will contact the proposed instructor in an effort to clarify and/or resolve the problem(s). If no resolution can be reached, the Graduate Director will inform the proposed instructor of the denial and the reason(s) for the denial in writing. The proposed instructor will then inform the student.

**End of Semester Evaluations:** All graduate students will be evaluated in writing at the end of each semester by the professors with whom they have taken courses. ***These evaluations are kept on file in the English Graduate Office and are available for the students to read.***

**Grade of "Incomplete":** The following regulations apply to students who receive what at OSU is termed the "composite incomplete" grade ("IB", "IC", "ID", or "IF") for any of their course work within the English Department:

- Students must complete course work within one calendar year, after which time the preliminary grade (expressed by the second letter of the composite) becomes permanent in accordance with University policy. Individual faculty members, however, may establish a shorter time limit for completing course work. Faculty will identify the time limits in the "remarks" dropdown of the electronic gradesheet.
- Teaching assistants or associates having more than three incomplete grades on their records will not be recommended for reappointment.
- Teaching assistants or associates having any incomplete grades on their records will not be recommended for summer employment.

Students should familiarize themselves with Section 6.2 of the University Academic Regulations found in the **University Catalog** found here: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/University-Catalog> for a full explanation of University policy governing incomplete grades.

## Language Requirement

**Methods of Demonstrating Knowledge:** In order to fulfill the language requirement for the MA in English, students must demonstrate knowledge of one other language other than English by passing a translation test, or taking course work, or submitting the departmental form on which the student's advisory committee affirms that the language is the student's primary language. Students who elect to take a translation test must choose from among the following languages: French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Old English, Russian, and Spanish. ***The language requirement must be fulfilled prior to taking the MA Qualifying Examinations or defending the MA Thesis.***

**Petition for Alternative Method of Demonstrative Knowledge:** Students may petition the Graduate Studies Committee for approval to fulfill the language requirement with demonstrable knowledge in a language other than English that they have gained through study and/or residence in an area where the language is spoken. This petition is completed by means of a departmental form: <http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms> and must have the support of the student's departmental advisory committee.

### Knowledge May be Demonstrated in any of the Following Ways:

- Knowledge can be demonstrated by passing a translation test in one of the languages listed above. The test shall consist of a total of three 250 – 300 word passages in the language, two from scholarly articles and one from a primary text. For Latin, Greek, or Old English, the test will consist of three primary texts. With access to a dictionary, students must translate any two of the passages. The test for reading knowledge must be completed within the three hour timelimit.
- Knowledge can be demonstrated by taking one three credit hour ***upper division*** undergraduate course in which the instruction and readings are primarily in the language or by taking one three credit hour graduate language reading course. Students must receive a grade of "B" or better in the specified course to fulfill the requirement. See the Graduate Director for information regarding such courses.

***Coursework may be completed after enrolling in the OSU English Department Graduate Program, or it may have been completed no more than five years prior to matriculation.***

- A student who holds a Master's degree from another university may fulfill the knowledge requirement by providing ***written*** proof that he or she has satisfactorily a language requirement for the Master's degree at the awarding institution. The documentation should be in the form of either **(a)** a specific posting of the language requirement having been met on the student's transcript or, **(b)** a letter from an appropriate official at the institution that awarded the Master's.

**Scheduling the Translation Test:** Translation tests are arranged by the English Graduate Office. They are offered three times a year, at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters (typically the third Wednesday of the semester) and the summer test is held the Wednesday after the last day of the spring semester. **Notices of Intent** to take the test are due no later than the end of the first week of classes. The fee for the exam is \$40.00 and must be paid by check or money order (payable to the English Department) prior to the test date. Sample exams are available in electronic format from the English Graduate Office.

## Advisor and Advisory Committee

All graduate students select an individual advisor and an advisory committee to guide them in completing their degrees.

**Required form (Departmental Advisory Committee):** After you have formed an advisory committee, submit the Departmental Advisory Committee Form (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>) to the English Graduate Office

**Advisor:** Students are encouraged to choose an advisor by the end of their first semester of course work, but if that is not possible, students should select an advisor by the end of their first year of graduate study. An advisor of an MA student may be any member of the graduate faculty of the English Department; in most cases, the advisor has expertise in the subject matter area in which the student plans to specialize.

**Advisory Committee:** The advisory committee will normally consist of the student's major advisor as committee chair and at least two additional members of the English Department's graduate Faculty. The form is found here: [https://cas.okstate.edu/department\\_of\\_english/documents/graduate\\_forms/dept\\_advisory\\_committee\\_form.pdf](https://cas.okstate.edu/department_of_english/documents/graduate_forms/dept_advisory_committee_form.pdf)

**Committee Changes:** To change an advisor and or advisory committee, go to: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html> and then to Plan of Study link

**Students are responsible for resident tuition for all courses taken in excess of this limit and for *all* fees.**

## Plan of Study

A plan of study is a listing of course work the student intends to take for completion of the degree and as estimated time schedule. The student must develop the plan with their advisor and advisory committee. The Graduate College requires MA students to file a plan of study with the Graduate College before completing the second semester of enrollment. A hold is automatically placed on the registration of any student attempting to enroll the second semester who does not have a plan of study approved by the Graduate College.

**Planning Meeting: *Prior to the end of the second semester of full-time enrollment***, students must schedule a meeting with their advisory committee. During that meeting, the student and their committee will discuss the student's preparation, professional goals, and the plans for graduate study. The student and committee should agree upon:

- A Plan of Study
- Fulfillment of the language requirement
- Tentative plans for the MA Qualifying Examinations (if required)
- Tentative plans for the thesis

**Required form (Plan of Study):** Following the plan of study meeting, the student will complete and submit the plan of study online at: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html> and the advisory committee and the Graduate Director will sign electronically.

**Plan of Study Changes:** Changes to the plan of study can be made with the approval of the advisory committee. A revised plan should be submitted to the Graduate College *at the beginning of the intended semester of graduation*. Changes can be made here:

<https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>.

**Ten Year Rule:** A final plan of study may not include any course more than ten years old at the time of actual graduation.

### Checklist for Plan of Study

- Minimum of 30 hours (including 6 hours of thesis) beyond baccalaureate degree
- Minimum of 16 hours in English
- At least 21 hours of course work at the 5000/6000 level at OSU
- All courses must be taken for graduate credit
- No more than 9 hours of course work taken as a special student or transferred from another institution
- No course work may be included if it was previously used to complete requirements for another degree (with the exception of the TESOL Certificate).
- The plan of study must be signed electronically by the advisor, committee members and the Graduate Director.

## MA Qualifying Examination

MA students (except those specializing in Literature or Rhetoric and Writing Studies) take one, five hour long qualifying examination that is administered on a single day. It is given each September and February, on the fifth Saturday of each semester. Students must submit a Notice of Intent to take the examination by the end of the second week of classes. Students normally elect at least two but no more than three areas, and they must take the exams on the Stillwater campus. No exams are offered during the summer.

**MA Qualifying Examination Prerequisites:** Before taking the MA Qualifying Examination the student must have

- Fulfilled the language requirement
- Maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above on all graduate course work. *All courses carrying graduate credit, including transfer hours on the approved plan of study, will be calculated in this grade point average.*
- Filed an approved plan of study with the Graduate College  
(<https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>)

**Required form (Notice of Intent):** Submit a Notice of Intent to Take MA Qualifying Examination form to the English Graduate Office by the end of the second week of classes in which the exam is to be taken. (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>)

**Exam Areas:** The subject areas for the MA Qualifying Examination are:

- Screen History
- Screen Theory
- General Linguistics
- Language Variations and Change
- Applied Linguistics/TESOL



**Exam Format:** The Ma Qualifying Examination will consist of three essay question choices in each of the areas that have been selected on the Notice of Intent form. Students must respond to a total of three questions.

**Preparations:** The English Graduate Website has reading lists for all areas here: <http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/ma-qualifying-exams>. The English Office has copies of past exams in electronic format available upon request. Students should consult with their advisor and advisory committee when preparing for the MA Qualifying Examination.

**Evaluation:** Each question will be evaluated by three readers from the specific subject area covered by that section of the exam. Student anonymity will be maintained. If a student answers two questions in a single area, the readers in that area will evaluate each question separately. All readers evaluate exam questions individually before meeting as a committee to discuss student performances and provide a rating of “Pass with Distinction”, “Pass”, “Pass/Terminal”, or “Fail” for each question. *To be eligible for the MA in English, students must pass all the questions and the questions must be in at least two areas.*

**Notification of Results:** The Graduate Director will email notification of exam results to students and the advisors no later than two weeks after the exams were taken.

**Retakes:** *Students may only take the MA Examinations twice.* Students who fail one or more questions the first time must retake only the number of questions failed. They must pass three questions in total, and the retaken questions combined with those questions originally passed must draw from at least *two areas*. Students are also allowed to retake the exam or parts of the exam in the next major semester in order to improve an original rating of “Pass/Terminal MA”. Students retaking part of the exam will have two hours to answer one question, three hours to answer two questions, and four hours to answer three questions.

**Appeals:** Normally, a second failure on any section of the MA Qualifying Examination will result in termination of the student’s work toward the degree. However, when course work has been of exceptionally high quality, a student may, after a second failure, petition the Graduate Studies Committee for permission to take the exam a third and final time. In order to petition, the student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in the graduate courses taken at OSU. In addition, the student’s petition must be supported by favorable end-of-semester evaluations from at least three professors.

## Thesis

The candidate for the MA degree normally prepares a study embodying original research for the six hours of thesis credit. It is possible for a student to convert a course paper of high quality to a thesis with additional research. Students prepare either a traditional thesis embodying original research, or, for literature students or Rhetoric and Writing Studies *only*, a portfolio reflecting scholarly development. The Graduate College describes both traditional thesis and portfolio as a “thesis”.

**Prerequisites:** In order to defend a thesis, whether traditional or portfolio, students must

- Have fulfilled the language requirement
- Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate course work taken beyond the baccalaureate degree. *All courses carrying graduate credit, including transfer hours on the approved plan of study, will be calculated in this grade point average.*
- Have an approved plan of study on file with the Graduate College
- Have submitted a prospectus (if writing a traditional thesis) no later than the first semester they are enrolled in thesis hours.

- Submit a completed Intent to Defend form before the end of the second week of classes in the semester in which they intend to defend. (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>)
- Meet all Graduate College deadlines and requirements

***Literature or Rhetoric and Writing Studies students may choose either the traditional thesis format or the Literature Portfolio format.***

### **Traditional Thesis Format**

This consists of 24 hours of course work, plus six hours of ENGL 5000: Thesis, leading to a traditional thesis and defense. The thesis is expected to be approximately 50-60 pages in length.

### **Literature and Rhetoric and Writing Studies Portfolio Format**

This consists of 24 hours of course work, plus six hours of ENGL 5000: Thesis, leading to an academic portfolio and defense.

Instead of the thesis, the student will compile a portfolio to be submitted to his or her advisory committee. The portfolio will be treated as a traditional thesis for purposes of the defense.

#### **The portfolio will consist of the following materials:**

- Seminar papers, or the equivalent, from at least six courses taken as part of the MA program.
- One of the above seminar papers substantially revised for submission to a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. The revision of this paper should be done under the supervision of the advisor. The paper should demonstrate full knowledge of the secondary work done in chosen field, as well as the theoretical assumptions governing the field. The revised paper will be submitted as a thesis to the Graduate College and be subject to all Graduate College deadlines and requirements.
- A statement of approximately 1000 words in which should discuss the questions, research strategies, and critical or theoretical thinking that have informed the student's work throughout his or her graduate career, as evidenced by the work in the portfolio. In discussing the revised essay, the student should explain its strengths and identify a target journal, providing full justification for the choice and explaining what revisions have been done toward publication.

**Thesis Committee:** Unless a student requests a change, the advisory committee serves as the thesis committee. If it is necessary to change the committee, a new committee form must be completed electronically on the Graduate College website: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html> and notification provided to the English Graduate Office.

**Prospectus:** *MA candidates writing a traditional thesis should submit a prospectus (approx. 1000 words) no later than the first semester they are enrolled in thesis hours.* The prospectus must be approved by the candidate's committee. Committee members must be notified in writing if an approved prospectus differs from the submitted thesis, (if, for example, the topic of the thesis changes or the authors or texts to be treated are altered or the number or character of the chapters changes). Students must provide a copy of the approved prospectus to the English Graduate Director.

**Reading Procedure:** At the time that the prospectus is approved, the candidate and the committee members should agree upon a reading procedure for the individual chapters or papers. Matters to be discussed in reaching an agreement might include which chapters and papers each member of the committee needs to see as they are completed by the candidate; whether the individual committee members wish to see the thesis or portfolio sections serially or all at once; and how much time committee members will need to finish reading a section or the entire thesis, ***Under no circumstances should a completed thesis be submitted to any committee member for reading fewer than two weeks before the defense.***

**Deadlines:** Students submitting theses must adhere to the deadlines established by the Graduate College and by the English Department.

**Style:** The student must write the thesis according to the guidelines in the current Graduate College Manuel, available from the Graduate College or at: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html> (thesis and dissertation guidelines).

**Defense Copy (Final Draft):** The defense copy of the thesis should contain ***all*** of the chapters in a completed form with full documentation.

**Final Copy:** If, as a result of the defense, revisions to the thesis are required, committee members ***will not*** sign the thesis until they are satisfied with the revisions.

## Thesis Defense

A thesis defense will consist of a public oral examination by the thesis committee. It will be no fewer than 45 minutes, but may be longer. The candidate submitting a research thesis will answer challenges to the thesis argument as well as questions on the scholarly, historical, and/or cultural backgrounds of the thesis subject. The candidate submitting a portfolio will answer challenges to the arguments of the six papers and to the statement of scholarly development, with particular focus on the revised paper. The thesis defense occurs after the student has submitted a complete draft of the thesis or portfolio to all committee members

**Required Form (Intent to Defend):** Candidates will file a nonbinding Intent to Defend form (<http://english.okstate.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-forms>) with the Graduate Director before the end of the first two weeks of the semester in which they expect to defend the thesis. Each member of the committee will sign this form before it is filed with the Graduate Director. The date, time and room location must be arranged by the student. If a student does not defend in the semester when the Intent to Defend form is filed, he or she should resubmit the form when he or she is prepared to defend.

**Defense:** Under no circumstance should a completed thesis be submitted to any committee member for reading fewer than two weeks before the defense. The English Graduate Office must be informed of any changes in the scheduled defense date, time or location. The English Graduate Office must be notified no less than two weeks before the defense of the final date, time and location of the defense, as well as title of thesis.

***No thesis defense will be held after the beginning of the summer session.***

**Required form (Results of Final Defense):** Turn in the signed Results of Final Defense Form to the English Graduate Office and the Graduate College: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/student-resources.html>

## Graduation

**Before being eligible to graduate student must have:**

- Passed the MA Examination (if required)
- Fulfilled the language requirement
- Passed the oral defense of thesis/portfolio and turned in the signed Results of Final Defense Form to the English Graduate Office and the Graduate College.
- Updated the Plan of Study if needed
- Filed an Application for Graduation found here: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>
- Filed a Graduation Clearance form found here: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>
- Submitted the final copy of the thesis in accordance with the format guidelines at: <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/current-student-resources.html>.

## Length of Financial Support for Teaching Assistants

A teaching assistant who has not been placed on strict academic probation and who is making satisfactory progress toward the degree is eligible for financial support for a maximum of three years. A student who obtains an MA in English at OSU and then enters the PhD program is eligible for and additional five years of support.

If exceptional circumstances warrant, a student in the final year of financial support may petition the Head of the English Department for an additional year's support. Such exceptional cases will be judged on an individual basis and in light of the Departmental policies and staffing needs.

## Ineligibility for the MA Degree

The Graduate Director may upon proper cause declare a student ineligible for a degree from the English Department at Oklahoma State University. Upon determining that such cause exists, the Graduate Director will immediately notify the student's advisor, who will discuss the matter with the student and respond to the Graduate Director within fifteen working days. Should the Graduate Director still believe that proper cause exists, he or she will write a letter to the student indicating the reasons for the decision. The student may then appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee within ten working days for a hearing.

The Graduate Studies Committee will review the appeal and report its findings to the Graduate Director, who will notify the student. The student may then appeal that decision to the full Graduate Faculty of the English Department. The decision of that group shall end the Departmental appeal process.

## Appeals and Petitions

All appeals involving grades or charges of academic dishonesty, or misconduct must be directed to the OSU Academic Appeals Board. Contact the Provost's Office (101 Whitehurst) for information and forms. Petitions involving teaching assistantships must be directed to the Department Head.

All other petitions or appeals must be directed in writing to the Graduate Director, who will then forward the petition to the appropriate body, usually the Graduate Studies Committee (for special requests as described within the English Graduate Guidelines) or the English Graduate Faculty (for exceptions to English Department policy). The Graduate Director will notify students by mail of the decision reached by the Graduate Studies Committee or Graduate Faculty, with a copy to the student's advisor. For exceptions to university policy, the Graduate Director will forward the petition to the Graduate Council. Students are urged to discuss matters with their advisors and the Graduate Director **before** making a formal petition or appeal.

If the Graduate Director does not act upon a student's written request within a reasonable amount of time, a student and/or advisor may appeal directly to the Department Head. If a student has exhausted all appeals procedures within the Department and is still not able to resolve the problem, he or she may appeal to the Graduate College.

According to OSU policy, appeals pertaining to program requirements, plans of study, research grades, creative components, qualifying and comprehensive exam procedures, thesis and dissertation defenses, and program dismissals may be considered only on grounds that the department has failed to adhere to its own published rules or regulations or to those of the Graduate College or University. Faculty and advisory committee scholarly assessments are not appealable.

Students are first encouraged to seek informal resolution with the involved parties. Next, the formal appeals process has two stages: 1. Consultation with the Graduate Coordinator (or, if the Graduate Coordinator is an involved party, then with the Department Head or Associate Head); and 2. Graduate Faculty Hearing.

### 1. Consultation with English Department Graduate Coordinator

Students must consult the Graduate Coordinator within 14 calendar days of the precipitating event to determine whether prima facie grounds for an appeal exist. Here a student needs to demonstrate a) that specific rules or regulations have been violated, and b) that such violations have harmed the student. Following this consultation, if the student wishes to continue with an appeal, the next step is a hearing by the English Department Graduate Faculty.

### 2. English Department Graduate Faculty Hearing

The English Department Graduate Coordinator will advise the student on preparation of a statement of appeal to be submitted within seven calendar days of consultation. Said document (no more than two pages, 12 point font, single spaced, 1" margins) should include information on the circumstances of the appeal, specific procedural issues involved, and remedial action sought; all supporting evidence is to be appended. The Graduate Coordinator will furnish the involved parties with the document, providing at minimum seven calendar days for their consideration before the matter is brought to the Graduate Faculty at its next scheduled meeting. The Graduate Faculty will decide the matter by a majority vote. The Graduate Coordinator will inform the student in writing about the outcome of the hearing. Involved faculty will be copied on this correspondence.

If this does not resolve the matter to the student's satisfaction, the student may appeal to the OSU Graduate College, per the OSU Graduate Student Appeals Policy.