

MA in English Program Handbook

Department of Humanities

Texas A&M University—Central Texas

2023-2024



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
CENTRAL TEXAS

This handbook provides students the information they need to enter and complete the MA in English at TAMUCT. All questions about the information contained in this document should be directed to the Graduate Coordinator of English.

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Welcome to the Master of Arts in English at Texas A&M University Central Texas (TAMUCT). We are delighted that you have chosen to develop your scholarly interests and identity with us. We intend to provide you with a meaningful education that will advance your professional goals.

Program Learning Outcomes

Our program expects to equip students interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, secondary teachers seeking dual-credit certification, individuals interested in securing full- or part-time teaching or administrative opportunities within some segment of education, or students interested in learning to think critically, write persuasively, and address complex problems that exist outside of educational settings.

We strive to meet this expectation by preparing students to...

1. Synthesize original contributions to the discipline by conducting research
 - a. Demonstrate an ability to enter scholarly conversations in their appropriate contexts
 - b. Apply a range of critical approaches and research methods English Studies offers
2. Analyze texts using critical thinking skills
 - a. Differentiate between various approaches for analyzing a range of texts
 - b. Perform analyses that add to scholarly understanding and provide challenging perspectives
3. Compose discourses adapted to particular scholarly or public audiences for specific purposes
 - a. Analyze audiences, scholarly and public, and how they might receive a particular message
 - b. Construct effective rhetorical appeals in order to accomplish aims of discourse

Mutual Expectations and Responsibilities

The MA in English program, the Department of Humanities, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Graduate Studies all expect and demand your intellectual engagement, academic integrity, and professionalism. When you meet these expectations, you can expect the faculty who contribute to this program to provide you with a challenging and safe learning environment, to offer you the chance to meet high academic standards, and to be professional in all their contact with you. Furthermore, you can expect TAMUCT to offer you the necessary academic resources and ancillary services you need throughout your time in our program. If you should have concerns about your ability to meet expectations or requirements, please contact the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English program.

Synchronous Online Format

The MA in English program has chosen to offer courses in a synchronous online format. Because our intention is to offer an experience comparable to traditional classroom meetings, our expectation is that students will have their cameras on during each class meeting.

MA in English Faculty Directory

The below table provides the contact information and specialties of the full-time faculty contributing to the MA in English.

| Faculty Name | Faculty Title | Faculty Email | Faculty Office | Faculty Specialties |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Dr. Bruce Bowles, Jr. | Associate Professor of English; Director of the University Writing Center | bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu | Warrior Hall 420A | Writing Assessment, Writing Center Pedagogy and Administration, and Rhetoric and Public Discourse |
| Dr. Amber Dunai | Associate Professor of English and Linguistics; Graduate Coordinator of MA in English | adunai@tamuct.edu | Heritage Hall 204K | Early English Literature, Medievalisms, and Linguistics |
| Dr. Allen Redmon | Professor of English and Film Studies; Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences | allen.redmon@tamuct.edu | Heritage Hall 216J | Film Studies, Adaptation Studies, and Comparative Literature |
| Dr. Stefan Schöberlein | Assistant Professor of English | schoeberlein@tamuct.edu | Heritage Hall 204J | American Literature, Science and Literature, Digital Humanities |

Other Important Contact Information

The below table provides contact information for support offices for students in the MA in English program.

| Office | Location | Phone | Website |
|--|----------|----------------|---|
| Office of Student Conduct | 105 WH | (254) 501-5909 | http://tamuct.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct.html |
| College of Arts and Sciences | 304 HH | (254) 519-5441 | http://tamuct.edu/coas/ |
| Community | 207 WH | (254) 519-5403 | http://tamuct.edu/ccftc/ccftc.html |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------|---|
| Counseling and Family Therapy Center | | | |
| Technology Help Desk | 113 FH | (254) 519-5466 | http://tamuct.edu/help/ |
| Graduate School | 424 FH | (254) 519-5447 | http://tamuct.edu/graduate-studies/ |
| Research and Economic Development | 418 FH | (254) 519-5741 | http://tamuct.edu/research/ |
| Financial Aid | 108 FH | (254) 501-5854 | http://tamuct.edu/financial-aid/ |
| Student Government Association | 105 WH | (254) 501-5909 | http://facebook.com/TAMUCTSGA |
| University Library | WH | (254) 519-5798 | http://tamuct.libguides.com/index |
| University Writing Center | 416 WH | | http://tamuct.mywconline.com/ |
| Veterans Affairs | 221 FH | (254) 519-5423 | http://tamuct.edu/veterans-affairs/ |

How to Register

Students should meet with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English program before each registration period. Following this meeting, students can register for their coursework online through Warrior Web. Detailed instructions for how to register can be found at <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/registration-instructions.html>. Questions can be directed to the Office of the Registrar (Founder's Hall 108) at 254-501-5857.

How to Track Degree Progress

Students are encouraged to track degree progress. The easiest way to do this is through DegreeWorks, which allows you to see what courses you have taken and any remaining requirements. You should check your degree progress at least once a semester to ensure that it is accurate. You will be allowed to graduate only if Warrior Web indicates that you have fulfilled all degree requirements, so you will want this record to be accurate. Should you find a discrepancy in your record, your first point of contact should be the Office of the Registrar. If that office is unable to correct your record, you should meet with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English program.

Questions

This handbook may leave unanswered questions or give voice to additional questions about graduate study at TAMUCT. Please contact the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English program if either condition applies to you.

Your Degree, Your Responsibility

You are responsible for your education. The MA in English program, the Department of Humanities, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Graduate Studies will provide you with the appropriate level of support to give you every chance to complete the program requirements in a timely fashion. However, your ability to complete the program will ultimately

depend on you. It is your responsibility to remain aware of all deadlines, to fill out all required forms, and to make sure you are fulfilling educational and administrative requirements. You will also need to remain in regular contact with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English program. Those who fail to meet any of these responsibilities should expect to encounter difficulties completing the program in the most timely or efficient manner possible. In short, you are responsible for making sure that you fulfill all academic and financial obligations associated with being a graduate student in the MA in English Program at TAMUCT.

MA in English Overview

The Master of Arts in English at TAMUCT is a 36-credit hour program designed to help you cultivate your scholarly and professional identity. Through small class seminars and strong faculty mentorship, students can expect to develop expertise and proficiency in English Studies.

The MA in English has four required courses: ENGL 5374 Research and Analysis in English Studies, plus three hours in each of the three required areas of study: Language Studies, Literary Studies, and Visual Studies. These courses provide students a solid foundation in English Studies in the following ways:

- Research and Analysis in English Studies examines research methods common to a range of interests within English Studies; students will consider what kinds of research they privilege and which methods will yield the most valuable insights for their interests.
- Language Studies courses include those that introduce students to areas of linguistic and rhetorical study. Rhetoric courses might include investigation of historical, theoretical, pedagogical, and/or empirical areas of rhetorical scholarship, whereas linguistics courses might focus on areas of scholarship such as historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and discourse analysis.
- Literary Studies courses introduce students to areas and approaches to analysis of literature. Literary Studies courses might include courses in critical theory and courses that explore literary texts associated with authors, periods, literatures, and/or topics.
- Visual studies courses introduce students to theories and concepts for analyzing, critiquing, and producing texts constructed in primarily visual modalities. Visual Studies courses might include courses in adaptation, film studies, and visual rhetoric.

Courses used to fulfill one required area of study may not be used to fulfill additional required areas of study. Students should reach out to the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English with questions regarding which courses can fulfill required areas of study and must use the MAENGL Advising Form in Warrior Web to request that courses be applied toward required areas of study. The Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English is the only person who can approve these requests. Students will have the opportunity to tailor their remaining coursework to acquire specialties in Language, Literature, Rhetoric, Composition, and/or Film Studies.

To see the required curriculum, please see “Appendix A: Graduate Coursework Worksheet.”

Initial Advising

Before registering for the first semester of coursework, students must contact the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English in order to schedule an initial advising meeting. During this meeting, the Graduate Coordinator and student will discuss topics including the nature and demands of graduate-level work (as opposed to undergraduate-level work); the initial courses the student should enroll in; the MA in English program's coursework requirements; and pathways to completing the MA in English.

Outside Electives

The MA in English may allow for students to take electives outside the English program on a very limited basis. This can only be done in consultation with the graduate program coordinator; additionally, students will be required to fill out a rationale form, found in Appendix C. Please note that outside electives will only be considered if they are clearly relevant to the student's academic interests and professional goals. The Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English is the only individual who can approve outside electives.

Transfer Students

Transfer students (i.e. students from other programs at TAMUCT or from other institutions) are welcome to apply for the MA in English; however, it is not guaranteed that prior coursework will "count" toward the student's degree plan. It is, in fact, likely that transfer students will "forfeit" prior credit. The Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English is the only individual who can approve courses to the degree plan. Students who wish to request to have prior coursework credited to their degree should complete a rationale form, found in Appendix D.

Admissions Requirements and Appeal Process

To be admitted into the Graduate School at TAMUCT, you must...

1. Visit www.applytexas.org to submit a completed application for graduate admissions. Deadlines for applications will be indicated on the current university calendar.
2. Submit the 200- to 300-word admission essay addressing academic and career goals. The essay must either accompany the electronic application for admissions or be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies at graduatestudies@tamuct.edu.
3. Remit the application-processing fee either through the electronic application or at the Business Office by cash, check, money order, or credit card.
4. Submit official transcript(s). Transcripts must indicate the date of degree conferral for the baccalaureate and/or graduate degree and must convey good standing. Official transcripts must be delivered in sealed envelopes to the Office of Graduate Studies, or emailed to graduatestudies@tamuct.edu by secure electronic transcripts exchange (e.g. eScrip-Safe, National Student Clearing House, Parchment, or Credentials Solutions) from participating institutions directly.
5. If required, scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) should be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). You can get further information on the GRE.
6. Provide proof of bacterial meningitis vaccination for students aged 21 and under.

Students who apply with at least a 3.0 GPA in their last 60 undergraduate hours or who have already completed a master's degree are not required to submit GRE scores. Students who do not meet these requirements but who fall between a 2.5 and 2.99 GPA in their last 60 undergraduate hours may be considered for full admission with the appropriate score on the GRE (a minimum of 285 from the combined verbal and and quantitative scores).

The above requirements are necessary for admission to the Graduate School. In order to be considered for admission to the MA in English program, applicants must provide a writing sample which will be assessed by program faculty using the Writing Sample Rubric (see Appendix E: MA in English Admissions Writing Sample Rubric). The writing sample should be a paper written during undergraduate coursework or an equivalent and should be sent to graduateschool@tamuct.edu. Program admission decisions will be made based upon assessment of the writing sample and an interview with the applicant, which the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English will schedule with the applicant after the writing sample has been received and reviewed.

Applicants who are denied admission to the MA in English are allowed to appeal this decision. Individuals who wish to do so must contact (in writing) the Chair of the Department of Humanities within 14 calendar days of the initial decision. The chair will work with the graduate faculty in the program to consider the merits of the appeal. Should this review committee deny the applicant's appeal, applicants may present their appeal to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The decision of the Dean is final.

Code of Conduct and Removal from Program

Pursuing a graduate degree is a privilege, and it is imperative that students conduct themselves with professional and ethical integrity. We expect graduate students in the MA in English to demonstrate courtesy, respect, and support for their peers, faculty members, and any individual at the institution (and beyond). Disrespect (including, but not limited to, name-calling, threats to an individual, harassment, physical altercations, or profane verbal altercations) to any member of TAMUCT (student, faculty, staff, administrator) will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal from the program. Additionally, students who betray the ethics of the profession by engaging in any behavior that violates the TAMUCT Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to plagiarism, will face dismissal from the program. Appeals of a dismissal may be submitted to the Chair of the Department of Humanities within 14 calendar days of the initial decision. Further appeal can be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The decision of the Dean is final.

Capstone Projects

Students pursuing the MA in English have two options for their capstone project: a thesis or a comprehensive exam. Students will begin considering which option will be best for them upon program admission during their initial consultation with the Graduate Coordinator.

Students who begin on thesis track may convert to the non-thesis track. Such a move will require additional coursework since the student will not take thesis hours. Thesis hours will

only convert to course credit for degree requirements when those hours have resulted in some exceptional piece of scholarship appropriate to some area of English studies. In most cases, students who have already taken thesis hours should expect to replace those hours with an additional English elective.

Thesis Track

The thesis project is a rigorous, extended, and sustained piece of original scholarship that offers an in-depth analysis, examination, or argument of one topic. Students pursuing this option will enroll in six credit hours of ENGL 5398 (Thesis) with approval from the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English. These credit hours can be taken in a student's final semester or be spread over the final two semesters. However, once the student begins enrollment in thesis hours, the student must maintain continuous enrollment of at least one credit hour of thesis per semester in the fall and spring until the student graduates (decisions about summer enrollment should be made in consultation with the student's thesis advisor and the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English). Please note that only six credit hours of ENGL 5398 can be counted toward graduation.

The thesis shall be prepared in accordance with the procedures specified by the Graduate School. Upon completion of the thesis, the student shall sit for an oral defense before their thesis committee.

Committee Formation

Students should arrange to meet with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English to present a topic or area to consider for a thesis. The Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English and student will decide together who to name the chair of the thesis project. Only Graduate Faculty can chair a thesis project. Should the designated faculty member agree to chair the thesis student, this person will become that student's thesis advisor, and the contact person for the student throughout the thesis project. Deadlines related to the thesis are available from the Graduate School, including deadlines related to the defense and filing an electronic copy of the thesis.

The specifics of the thesis—that is, number of chapters, expectations for content, and deadlines—will be determined by the thesis chair and the thesis writer. The chair of the thesis will recommend at least one additional reader for the thesis project. More normally, the thesis will have two additional readers so that the thesis committee will consist of three full-time faculty members who are also members of the Graduate Faculty. In some cases, one reader may be from outside the English program. Only the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English can approve the formation of a committee. The thesis advisor will need to secure this approval before the student begins work on the thesis project.

It is incumbent on the student to remain in steady communication with the thesis advisor at every stage of the thesis. The thesis advisor will set deadlines for progress. Only those who meet these deadlines, meet them at the level the advisor sets, and remain in contact with the

advisor should expect to remain on track to complete the thesis in a timely manner or to earn a passing grade for thesis hours.

Students may be required to write a thesis proposal depending upon the project and at the discretion of the thesis advisor. If a proposal is required, the student's thesis advisor will establish a deadline by which the proposal should be completed.

Requirements of Thesis

While many of the requirements of the thesis will be determined between the chair and the student, there are some basic requirements every thesis project must meet.

- The thesis should be no fewer than 60-pages, not including works cited or appendices.
- The thesis will make an original contribution to some area within English studies.
- Students must successfully defend their thesis in an oral defense (see below).

As already stated, the structure of the thesis can vary. One possible structure for the thesis is,

- Introduction: State the scope, central research question(s), and thesis. Also, describe the structure of the manuscript that follows, including the purpose of each chapter. The Introduction is often written last because you will not know what you are introducing until you write the rest of your thesis.
- Chapter 1: Review the relevant scholarship. Demonstrate to your reader that you are a master of the field. You do not need to include every publication, but you should not miss anything important. Show the various schools of thought, and where scholars agree or disagree. Conclude by showing where the gaps and unanswered questions are – that is where your thesis fits in.
- Chapter 2-X: Subsequent chapters explore how your work in primary and secondary sources fills the gaps in how one understands your topic or question. Each chapter should link back to your central research question(s). The required number of chapters, as well as the overall length of your thesis, will vary based on your topic. If you have questions about this, please direct them to your thesis chair.
- Conclusion: Explain what we now know about this subject as a result of your work, and how your work has changed our understanding of the topic.

Again, this is only one possible structure. Only the thesis advisor can approve the structure for each thesis project. Issues that may arise between the student and the thesis advisor should be directed to the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English, or to the Chair of the Department of Humanities if the Graduate Coordinator is also the thesis advisor for a project. The chair is the final arbitrator for issues related to the thesis.

Thesis Defense

Following the completion of a thesis, the student will provide a professional presentation of the most central elements of the thesis and defend those elements and others related to it to the full thesis committee. While the specific expectations for a student's defense will be determined by the thesis chair, every defense will include an oral presentation equivalent to a

professional presentation for an academic organization, will require the candidate to field impromptu questions from the thesis committee regarding the presentation and the thesis itself.

A defense can result in three outcomes:

- Pass with no thesis revisions
- Conditional pass based on thesis revisions
- No pass

An outcome of “no pass” requires the student to work with the thesis advisor to address issues raised by the committee, and to sit for another oral defense. A student can only sit for one defense a semester, which means that an outcome of “no pass” will delay graduation at least one semester. Two unsuccessful defenses will result in the student being converted to the non-thesis track.

An outcome of “conditional pass based on revisions” can only convert to a pass if the student submits all revisions ahead of the deadlines established by the Office of Graduate Studies. Following a successful defense, but before submitting the thesis to the Office of Graduate Studies, the student must make certain that the thesis is free of typographical, spelling, and grammatical errors. The Office of Graduate Studies will return theses if they contain such errors or do not conform to its prescribed format. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in an outcome of “no pass,” and all the conditions of a no pass will become applicable.

Following approval by the Office of Graduate Studies, the thesis will be published and made available through ProQuest. Questions about thesis publication should be addressed to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Comprehensive Exam

Students on the non-thesis track will complete a written comprehensive exam rather than produce a thesis. Students should familiarize themselves with applicable deadlines for comprehensive exams established by the Office of Graduate Studies by consulting that office’s website. Students will need to register for ENGL 5090, a zero-hour, non-credit generating course, during the semester they plan to complete the comprehensive exam. Comprehensive exams are normally taken in the student’s final semester. A student’s course load in that final semester should be arranged aware of the extra demands completing this exam will create.

Preparation for the exam begins with a discussion with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English. The Graduate Coordinator will review the general procedures with the student and will organize a committee of examiners, which will normally consist of all full-time faculty in the MA in English program. All committee members must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The Graduate Coordinator will be designated as chair for the exam.

The comprehensive exam requires that students present a portfolio of three papers written during graduate coursework and an essay at least 15 pages in length (not including works cited) which explains why the essays were included in the portfolio, reflects upon reasons that the

student would revise each essay and describes how these revisions would be approached, and discusses how courses in the MA in English program have prepared the student to revise previously-written work for specific audiences and purposes. The three papers selected for the portfolio must have been written for three different graduate-level English courses, and those courses should have been taught by at least two full-time faculty in the MA in English. The student will consult with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English in order to determine a deadline by which the student must distribute the portfolio to the exam committee. Once the exam dates and times have been established, the student is responsible for meeting all deadlines. Failure to meet a deadline will normally result in a failing grade.

The comprehensive exam will culminate in an oral defense before the examining committee. The defense will begin with a discussion of the written material, which will have been submitted to the committee chair at least one week before the oral defense is scheduled. Committee members will also question the student on ideas that extend from that material. After reviewing the written material and hearing the defense, each committee member will award a grade of pass or fail. A student who earns a pass from the majority of the committee members will earn a pass on the comprehensive exam. Students who fail to earn a pass from the majority of the committee will earn a grade of fail on the exam.

A student can only sit for one comprehensive exam a semester. Those who fail the exam should expect to have their graduation delayed at least one semester and should discuss with the Graduate Coordinator of the MA in English any areas in need of improvement the exam process revealed. A plan to respond to those areas in need of improvement should be developed before the student sits for the comprehensive exam a second time. Students who fail the comprehensive exam a second time will no longer be considered candidates for the MA in English.

Graduate Assistantships

If you wish to be considered for a graduate assistantship (offered on a per semester basis), you should contact the Graduate Coordinator by August 1st for the fall semester and January 1st for the spring semester. The program does not normally award assistantships during the summer. Graduate assistantships will be granted taking into consideration both the scholarly and professional interests of applicants and the specific requirements of the faculty member who will be working with the graduate assistant. Graduate assistants must be in good academic standing with the program and must be enrolled in at least 6 hours of coursework in the semester(s) during which they hold an assistantship.

Graduate Student Awards

Each year, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research sponsors a series of awards for graduate students. These include awards for Scholarship, Professionalism, Community Service, and the Outstanding Thesis Award. During each spring semester, there is a call for nominations for these awards, which are awarded at the end of the semester at the College of Arts and Sciences Banquet and University Graduate Banquet respectively. Each year, the MA in English

program nominates students for these awards, with the goal to forward a nominee for each award. If you have questions about these awards, please contact the Graduate Coordinator.

Sigma Tau Delta

TAMUCT is home to the Alpha Upsilon Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Graduate students are encouraged to apply for membership once they have met the chapter's coursework and GPA requirements. Students may contact the Faculty Advisor for information on membership requirements and the application process.

Appendix A: Graduate Coursework Worksheet

Thesis Option

| Course Prefix | Course Title | SCH | Semester Completed |
|----------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------|
| <i>REQUIRED COURSEWORK</i> | | | |
| ENGL 5374 | Research and Analysis in English Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Language Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Literary Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Visual Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL 5398 | Thesis | 6 | |
| <i>ELECTIVES</i> | | | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| TOTAL | | 36 | |

Comprehensive Exam Option

| Course Prefix | Course Title | SCH | Semester Completed |
|----------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------|
| <i>REQUIRED COURSEWORK</i> | | | |
| ENGL 5374 | Research and Analysis in English Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Language Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Literary Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | Visual Studies | 3 | |
| ENGL 5390 | Comprehensive Exam | 0 | |
| <i>ELECTIVES</i> | | | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| ENGL _____ | | 3 | |
| TOTAL | | 36 | |

Appendix B: Sample Two Year Plan

English MA Sample Two Year Plan, Thesis Option

Year One

Fall

- ENGL Literature Elective (*Topics may include American Literature, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, among others*)
- ENGL 5330 Studies in Rhetoric (*Topics may include Visual Rhetoric, Rhetoric of Ancient Greece and Rome, and 20th Century Rhetoric, among others*)
- ENGL Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies, Adaptation, and Studies in Comparative Literature, among others*)

Spring

- ENGL 5320 Studies in English Language (*Topics may include Sociolinguistics or Discourse Analysis, among others*)
- ENGL 5374 Research and Analysis in English Studies
- ENGL Visual Studies Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies or ENGL 5332 Visual Rhetoric, among others*)

Year Two

Fall

- ENGL Literature Elective (*Topics may include American Literature, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, among others; topic will differ from Fall One*)
- ENGL Composition Elective (*Topics may include Studies in Literacy, Computer Mediated Composition, or Writing Program Administration, among others*)
- ENGL Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies, Adaptation, and Studies in Comparative Literature, among others; topic will differ from Fall One*)

Spring

- ENGL Elective (*electives available in English Language, Rhetoric, and Composition; topics will differ from Fall One, Spring One, and Fall Two respectively*)
- ENGL 5398 Thesis (6 credits)

English MA Sample Two Year Plan, Comprehensive Exam Option

Year One

Fall

- ENGL Literature Elective (*Topics may include American Literature, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, among others*)
- ENGL 5330 Studies in Rhetoric (*Topics may include Visual Rhetoric, Rhetoric of Ancient Greece and Rome, and 20th Century Rhetoric, among others*)
- ENGL Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies, Adaptation, and Studies in Comparative Literature, among others*)

Spring

- ENGL 5320 Studies in English Language (*Topics may include Sociolinguistics or Discourse Analysis, among others*)
- ENGL 5374 Research and Analysis in English Studies
- ENGL Visual Studies Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies or ENGL 5332 Visual Rhetoric, among others*)

Year Two

Fall

- ENGL Literature Elective (*Topics may include American Literature, Chaucer, and Shakespeare, among others; topic will differ from Fall One*)
- ENGL Composition Elective (*Topics may include Studies in Literacy, Computer Mediated Composition, or Writing Program Administration, among others*)
- ENGL Elective (*Topics may include Film Studies, Adaptation, and Studies in Comparative Literature, among others; topic will differ from Fall One*)

Spring

- ENGL Language Elective (*Topics may include Sociolinguistics or Discourse Analysis, among others; topic will differ from Spring One*)
- ENGL Rhetoric Elective (*Topics may include Visual Rhetoric, Rhetoric of Ancient Greece and Rome, and 20th Century Rhetoric, among others; topic will differ from Fall One*)
- ENGL Composition Elective (*Topics may include Studies in Literacy, Computer Mediated Composition, or Writing Program Administration, among others; topic will differ from Fall Two*)
- ENGL 5390 English Comprehensive Exam¹

¹ENGL 5390 Comprehensive Exam is 0 credit hours.

Appendix C: Request for Outside Elective

--Filling out this form does not guarantee that your request will be granted.

Student's Name _____

Course Name and Number of Outside Elective _____

Rationale

Directions: In one paragraph, please explain (a) why you wish to take this course (b) how it contributes to your plan of study and (c) how it contributes to your professional and academic goals.

This form should be typed.

Appendix D: Request for Transfer Credit

Student's Name _____

Directions:

Course Prefix and Number: Write the course prefix and number of the class *from your prior institution* that you wish to be considered for credit at TAMUCT.

Course Name: Write the course name of the class *from your prior institution* that you wish to be considered for credit at TAMUCT.

Counted As: Please note which course—e.g. Studies in Language, Studies in Rhetoric, Elective, etc.—that you wish to have your prior course counted as.

Rationale: Write a two to three sentence rationale to defend this substitution.

| Course Prefix and Number | Course Name | Counted As | Rationale |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Notes:

--You may need a separate page to write your rationale

--Please type your responses

--Filling out this form does not guarantee that your credit will transfer

--In some cases, additional materials (e.g. syllabi from other courses, assignments from other courses) may be requested

Appendix E: MA in English Admissions Writing Sample Rubric

| | <i>Ready to Succeed in the MA in English</i> | <i>Needs Support to Succeed in the MA in English</i> | <i>Might Not Succeed in the MA in English</i> | Points |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------|
| Critical Argumentation | The writing sample has a clear and logical thesis that is well-supported by evidence and reasoning throughout the writing sample. (3 points) | The writing sample has a clear and logical thesis that is generally well-supported by evidence and reasoning but occasionally deploys evidence problematically and/or has questionable reasoning. (2 points) | The writing sample does not have a clear and logical thesis nor does it possess sufficient evidence and reasoning. (1 point) | |
| Integration of Sources | The writing sample fuses appropriate sources beneficial to the argument into the text in a nearly seamless fashion. (3 points) | The writing sample fuses appropriate sources that are mostly beneficial to the argument into the text in a productive fashion with occasional areas that feel forced. (2 points) | The writing sample fails to fuse appropriate sources beneficial to the argument into the text with the quotations and paraphrases primarily feeling forced. (1 point) | |
| Polish | The writing sample is strong in terms of grammar, punctuation, formatting, and other conventions with only occasional errors. (3 points) | The writing sample is solid overall in terms of grammar, punctuation, formatting, and other conventions but displays one or two problematic error patterns. (2 points) | The writing sample is problematic in multiple instances in terms of grammar, punctuation, formatting, and other conventions. (1 point) | |

Total Points: _____