Combined Program Goals/Learning Outcomes
Department of English
MA and PhD Programs

Prepared by Gary Harrison, DGS 12-12-08

Broad Program Goals & Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

1. Broad Program Learning Goals for this Degree/Certificate Program
   MA and PhD students in English should be able:
   A. To conduct research using appropriate methods and tools for their field of concentration (Literature, Rhetoric and Writing, Medieval Studies).
   B. To write competent critical and analytical essays, book reviews, reports, and other works appropriate for their field of concentration (Literature, Rhetoric and Writing, Medieval Studies).
   C. To recognize, identify and evaluate the historical importance and relative value of core primary and secondary works relevant broadly to the study of English and specifically to their field of concentration (Literature, Rhetoric and Writing, Medieval Studies).
   D. (PhD primarily, but applies to some MA students) To recognize, reflect upon, and implement effective pedagogical principles, methods and practices for the teaching of composition and literature.

2. List of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for this Degree/Certificate Program
   A. Research – MA and PhD students will be able:
      1. To identify and be able to use effectively, efficiently, and ethically the standard research tools and methodologies in their field.
      2. To evaluate which research tool(s) and method(s) are most appropriate for the particular research question(s) or project in which they are engaged.
      3. To articulate a pertinent and original research question that addresses an arguable issue that is timely and relevant to ongoing scholarship in their field of concentration.
B. Writing – MA and PhD students will be able:
1. To write in a genre appropriate to their field of concentration works that present a clear, arguable, and pertinent thesis and a strong statement of purpose.
2. To write in a genre appropriate to their field of concentration works that show strong argumentation and organization, good use of pertinent and evidence, and appropriate rhetorical strategies and style.

C. Core primary and secondary works – MA and PhD students will be able:
1. To write in a genre appropriate to their field of concentration works that show and effectively draw upon pertinent and appropriate secondary critical, historical, philosophical, or other supporting texts to make an effective argument.
2. To write in a genre appropriate to their field of concentration works that show the historical or critical importance and value of primary and secondary works relevant to the particular topic and thesis of those works.
3. To write in a genre appropriate to their field of concentration works that effectively apply pertinent theoretical and/or critical frameworks and methods appropriate to the particular topic and thesis of those works.

D. Teaching – PhD students and select MA students will be able:
1. To recognize, evaluate, and apply current pedagogical theories and practices relevant to the teaching of writing and/or literature.
2. To develop and implement effectively and with a professional sense of responsibility syllabi, course plans, student learning objectives, writing prompts, examination questions, rubrics and other pertinent course materials for the teaching of writing and/or literature.
3. To write a self-reflective essay that articulates the students’ individual teaching philosophy and practice and to situate that philosophy and practice in the ongoing scholarly discussion of teaching composition and/or literature.