

# AN APPROXIMATE TIMELINE FOR YOUR M.A. DEGREE IN ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Updated May 2011

*Note: This is a model only and may be adapted according to your work and life commitments.*

## Semester 1

1. Take core course, English 600.
2. Explore coursework, meet faculty, and begin thinking about your specialization (American, British, Children's, Comp Lit, RWS).
3. Understand language requirement and make plans to fulfill it.
4. Explore tutoring and TA-ship positions and prerequisite coursework (RWS 609).
5. At the end of the semester, think about which of your seminar papers you may want to include in your portfolio if you later choose the portfolio option.

## Semester 2

1. Take English 600 if unable to enroll in it the first semester.
2. Begin or continue taking courses in specialization (you eventually will need three courses in your specialization). Also take literature elective courses.
3. Take necessary RWS teaching prerequisite coursework.
4. Apply for tutoring positions / TAships.
5. Work towards fulfillment of language requirement.
6. As you choose topics for your seminar papers and plan to write them, think about which papers may work for your portfolio if you later choose the portfolio option.
7. If you plan to write a thesis, you should have a thesis topic in mind by the end of this semester.

## Semester 3

1. Continue coursework in area of specialization as well as electives.
2. If pursuing thesis option, identify faculty committee and discuss topic and completion schedule with them; consider aiming to complete a draft of your thesis near the beginning of the semester you hope to file.
3. If pursuing portfolio option, begin to put together a portfolio committee and focus on the papers you would like to include in your portfolio.
4. Work towards fulfillment of language requirement.
5. Meet with graduate advisor to file POS (Program of Study) and advance to candidacy [this must be done by the end of your penultimate semester].
6. Begin to apply for Ph.D. programs, community college internships / jobs, or Fulbright fellowships.

## Semester 4

1. [Beginning of semester] Enroll for portfolio class (790) or file thesis paperwork (must file thesis paperwork in order to enroll in 799A, the thesis research class).
2. [Beginning of semester] Meet with thesis advisor to finalize schedule.
3. Put together portfolio defense committee. Focus on the paper you will revise and expand in order to ready it for submission to a scholarly journal (the "star paper" in your portfolio).
4. Continue to apply for Ph.D. programs, community college internships / jobs, or Fulbright fellowships.
5. Complete coursework.
6. Complete language requirement if you haven't already done so.
7. File application to graduate.
8. Work on and file thesis or prepare for portfolio defense.

You must have a POS on file in order to:

1. Have a TA position in our department

2. File thesis paperwork
3. Take the portfolio prep course and have a portfolio defense
4. Graduate!

*You are responsible for keeping the office staff informed of your correct email address!*