

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

Note: This is a model only and may be adapted according to your work and life commitments and is based on a two-year Program of Study **Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 and prior.**

Semester 1

1. Take core course, English 600 and consider taking RWS609 if you plan to teach.
2. Explore coursework, meet faculty, taking one other course that appeals to you.
3. Understand language requirement and make plans to fulfill it.
4. Explore fellow and TA-ship positions and prerequisite coursework (RWS 609) and apply for those for which you are qualified.
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. Begin or continue taking courses in your specialization (you eventually will need three courses specifically in your specialization). Also take literature elective courses.
2. Take necessary RWS teaching prerequisite coursework if you did not do so in the first semester.
3. Apply for fellow positions / TAships if you have not already done so and are interested in these opportunities.
4. Work towards fulfillment of language requirement.
5. 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.
6. 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 identify potential supervisors for your work and focus on the papers you would like to include in your portfolio.
4. Work towards fulfillment of language requirement. Contact your graduate advisor or graduate coordinator for information.
5. Meet with graduate advisor to file POS (Program of Study) and advance to candidacy.
[This must be completed 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. Meet with portfolio supervisor. 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. Contact graduate coordinator.
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!

Last Updated: June 9, 2022