

English Department

600 Lincoln Avenue  
Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

Office: (217) 581-2428  
Fax: (217) 581-7209

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CGS Agenda Item: 18-83  
Effective Fall 2018



To: The Council on Graduate Studies

From: Angela Vietto, Chair, Department of English  
Anita Shelton, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Date: August 28, 2018

With the approval of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the English Department requests approval from the Council of Graduate Studies to offer the MA in English through online delivery. As there are students who live and work in Chicago who are currently taking online classes through our department and who seek the MA, we request this change be effective Fall 2018.

Rationale:

One constituency we have traditionally served in our M.A. program is current K-12 educators who seek the M.A. for professional development purposes. In recent years, the incentive for high school teachers to qualify themselves to teach dual credit courses has increased this demand. At the same time, our program has successfully launched an online graduate certificate in the teaching of writing.

The fully online program will serve teachers at a distance from EIU, particularly in the Chicago area where demand for dual credit is great, as well as other location-bound students who seek an MA in English. A fully online MA in English is not available from other state-supported universities in Illinois.

To continue offering face-to-face seminars for our on-campus MA students, English will offer a number of courses with synchronous meeting times where part of the class is gathered together on campus while distant students attend via videoconference.

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