

MEMORANDUM

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Date: December 1, 2016

To: Dr. Chris Laingen, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

Re: Request for Executive Action from the Department of English

Requested Change:

To revise the admissions policy for the MA in English as follows:

Applicants must meet all of the requirements for general admission set forth by the Graduate School including hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with 2.75 or higher GPA for full admission.

~~In addition, applicants must submit a documented score on the General Test of the Graduate Record Exam to the Graduate School.~~ A GRE score may be submitted but is not required for admission.

~~They~~ Applicants should also send the following materials to the Graduate Coordinator of English:

1. Personal statement: Submit a statement of 500-750 words that explains your reasons for undertaking graduate study, your academic preparation, your interests and goals.
2. Writing sample: Send a sample of academic writing that shows us your ability to think and write critically. Essays may address a subject related to English studies, or any other academic area in which you have research and writing experience. ~~Your sample should be at least 5 pages long and no more than 20.~~ Students interested in the Creative Writing concentration are strongly encouraged to include a creative writing sample. Your sample should be no more than 20 pages in length.

Rationale:

Following a number of graduate programs in English across the country, EIU's English Department believes the GRE score has limited value in assessing an applicant's overall capabilities for success in completing an MA degree. In addition, the high cost of the exam and the burden of scheduling it add real barriers to completing the application requirements. Applicants may still choose to submit voluntarily a GRE score to the Graduate School, and the English Department reserves the right to review scores. However, a GRE score will no longer be a required item for admission into the program. The revised language for the writing sample requirement is being revised to better suit the Creative Writing concentration.

Catalog Language Changes:

As stated above.

Approved by College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee:

November 16, 2016.

Effective Year/Term:

Fall 2017