



## MEMORANDUM

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Date: April 20, 2018

To: Dr. David Boggs, Chair, Council on Graduate Studies

Re: Request for Executive Action from the Department of English

**Requested Changes:**

Creation of an accelerated MA option in English as per joint CAA-CGS memo of 3/29/18 with the following specifics:

- Admission Requirements, aligned with the minimum requirements set out by the Graduate School:
  - 3.25 cumulative undergraduate GPA and 3.5 undergraduate GPA in the English major or a complementary major
  - 15 credit hours (five courses) completed at EIU towards the English major or a complementary undergraduate degree, excluding ENG 1001G, 1002G, 1091G, and 1092G
  - 60 credit hours completed towards the undergraduate degree
  - English graduate program application submitted through MyEIU:
    1. two letters of recommendation: provide email addresses for two recommenders
    2. statement of purpose: upload a statement of 500-750 words that explains your reasons for undertaking graduate study, your academic preparation, your interests and goals
    3. writing sample: upload a sample of writing of no more than twenty pages in length that shows the Department your ability to think and write critically on one of the following: 1) a subject related to English; 2) the academic interests you intend to pursue in graduate school; 3) an area of study in which you have research and writing

experience. Students interested in the Creative Writing concentration are strongly encouraged to upload a creative writing sample.

4. curriculum vitae or résumé
5. international students must also document a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based)

- *Program requirements:*

Shared credit: Students planning to earn an English M.A. degree with the Thesis option (33 hours total) will earn “shared credit” for up to three graduate English courses listed below in “Catalog Language Changes.”

### **Rationale for Changes:**

The English Department shares the mission of Eastern Illinois University’s Graduate School to “increase the prospects of retaining some of our best undergraduates for graduate study, reduce the financial expense of graduate education, and assist in the recruitment of academically strong undergraduate freshmen as well as community college transfer students.”

In increasing access to an excellent graduate education—and in sharing the three main goals of retention, recruitment, and financial assistance—the English Department proposes to offer an Accelerated Graduate Program.

English is particularly well suited for developing an Accelerated Graduate Degree Program for the following reasons:

- English requires a relatively low number of credits for the master’s degree (30 credit hours plus 3 or 6 credits for the thesis)
- English offers several upper-division (4750-4999) and grad-level elective course options (5000 and above)
- English already attracts several Honors College students and admits Departmental Honors students who would be ideal candidates for entering an accelerated program; such students already need to have a 3.5 minimum GPA, take an Independent Study, take a 5000-level course, and write an Honors thesis in order to meet the Honors requirements

### **Catalog Language Changes:**

#### **English Accelerated Graduate Program**

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A maximum of 9 credit hours (3 courses) may be counted as shared course credits towards the Thesis option (33 hours total) of the English M.A. degree.

ENG 4750Z - Studies in African-American Literature  
ENG 4760Z - Special Topics in Professional Writing

ENG 4761Z - Creative Nonfiction Writing  
ENG 4762Z - Poetry Writing  
ENG 4763Z - Fiction Writing  
ENG 4764Z - Play Writing  
ENG 4765Z - Professional Editing  
ENG 4775Z - Literature, Culture, Theory  
ENG 4776Z - Research and Rhetoric in Professional Writing and Composition  
ENG 4801Z - Integrating the English Language Arts  
ENG 4850Z - Studies in Postcolonial and Third World Literatures  
ENG 4901Z - History of the English Language  
ENG 4903Z - Young Adult Literature  
ENG 4905Z - Studies in Youth Literature  
ENG 4906Z - Problems in the Teaching of English  
ENG 4950Z - Literary History  
ENG 5000Z - Introduction to Methods and Issues in English Studies  
ENG 5001Z - Studies in Old and Middle English Literature  
ENG 5002Z - Studies in Renaissance Literature  
ENG 5003Z - Studies in Seventeenth-Century British Literature  
ENG 5004Z - Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Literature  
ENG 5005Z - Studies in Nineteenth-Century British Literature  
ENG 5006Z - Studies in Twentieth-Century British Literature  
ENG 5007Z - Composition Theory and Pedagogy  
ENG 5008Z - Studies in Colonial American Literature  
ENG 5009Z - Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature  
ENG 5010Z - Studies in Twentieth-Century American Literature  
ENG 5011Z - Studies in Composition and Rhetoric  
ENG 5020Z - Graduate Workshop in Creative Writing  
ENG 5061Z - Special Topics in Literature and Literary Theory  
ENG 5091Z - Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy  
ENG/CMN 5260Z - Science and Technical Communication.

**Approved by College of Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee:**  
April 18, 2018.

**Effective Year/Term:**  
Fall 2018, if possible; if not, then ASAP