

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE M.A. THESIS IN WRITING

DESCRIPTION OF THE M.A. THESIS IN WRITING:

- a) The M.A. thesis in writing, a qualifying manuscript of 50-100 pages, is a substantial work of fiction, poetry, drama or creative non-fiction.
- b) Students should also submit a portfolio of six writing samples which were submitted earlier for course requirements and subsequently revised to represent the student's best work.
- c) The selection must include:
 - One sample of Literary Analysis from a required literature course, contextual studies course or Contemporary Modes of Criticism.
 - One sample of professional writing from Writing for the Magazine Market, Writing as Process I or II, Journalism, Poetry Writing Seminar, Fiction Writing Seminar, or other appropriate course.
 - One sample of creative or critical writing from Creative Writing or Advanced Critical Writing.
 - Three other pieces of the student's own choosing.

2) THE CALENDAR:

- a) The semester before the thesis is written students select an advisor from the English Department faculty under whose supervision they will write the proposal for their thesis.
- b) Students should consult the Program Director if they are uncertain about choosing an advisor.
- c) Before any substantial writing is undertaken on the thesis itself, the student will submit a thesis proposal to the advisor for approval.

- d) The advisor serves as first reader for the thesis.
- e) The second reader for the thesis is the seminar leader of English 699: Research and Thesis, the course in which students are enrolled during the semester that they write their thesis.
- f) The thesis writing seminar is the capstone course in the M.A. program, and students should register for this course after they have completed all other course work for the degree. However, students who have completed 27 credits may register for one other graduate course while they are writing their thesis.
- g) After the proposal is approved by the thesis advisor, the student forwards two copies of the proposal to the Program Director for distribution to the members of the Graduate Committee for approval.
- h) Once the Committee approves the proposal, the student will be authorized to enroll the following semester in English 699: Research and Thesis, the thesis writing seminar.
- i) If a proposal is rejected, revisions will be indicated. The students will revise accordingly and re-submit.
- j) Students who plan to write their thesis during the fall semester should submit their proposal to the Program Director by March 15th.
- k) Students who plan to write their thesis during the spring semester should submit their proposal to the Program Director by November 1.
- l) Students submit two final copies of their thesis during the last week that English 699 meets.
- m)** One of the copies should be in a spring binder to be kept on file in the office of the Program Director . The other copy is for the first reader.