

**Department of English****STUDENT OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PLAN****MA IN ENGLISH**

The English Major, at both undergraduate and graduate level, is designed to give proficiency in skills that traditionally have been among the most highly prized by society: an ability to read with comprehension and critical judgment; to communicate accurately and clearly; to grasp difficult ideas and think logically; to do research and organize materials; to evaluate texts historically and aesthetically; and to appreciate literature and the other arts.

Building upon the foundation of the BA English program, the Master of Arts program in English language and literature serves several categories of students: those teaching high school and community college; those anticipating doctoral studies; and those simply interested in extending and intensifying the knowledge acquired in their undergraduate studies.

There are 2 MA options: Literature, and Composition Theory and Pedagogy.

**SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

All students graduating with an MA in English will

1. Acquire an enhanced knowledge of research and writing skills developed in the undergraduate major, demonstrating an ability to write a professional-quality research/critical paper

In addition, students with an Option in Literature will

2. Increase and enhance their abilities in reading and contextualizing literary texts, demonstrating abilities to

- 2.1 Place texts within historical periods

- 2.2 Analyze texts within current critical paradigms

Students with an Option in Composition Theory will

3. Familiarize themselves with current writing theory

4. Develop and apply that theory in the specific context of the college composition classroom

## **ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal 1**

Emphasized in English 250T, 280T

### **Goal 2**

Objective 7.1  
Emphasized in English 250T

Objective 7.2  
Emphasized in English 280T

### **Goal 3**

Emphasized in English 281

### **Goal 4**

Emphasized in English 270, 282

Applied in Performance as TA and/or Tutor within the Department's Composition Program

The skills gained over the course of the MA are reinforced and integrated in the culminating experience, the thesis (English 299).

## **PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

- 2004-2005                      Surveys of current MA students and of recent alumni, in conjunction with the preparation of Department Self-Study, as part of the Department's periodic Program Reviews  
(Responsible Department Committees: Graduate, Program Review)
- 2005-06                         Development of Exit Survey, to be administered to all MA candidates as they apply upon completion of their theses  
(Responsible Department Committees: Graduate, in conjunction with Assessment)
- 2006-07                         Development of scoring rubric and its application to the assessment of Writing Samples required of all entering MA students.  
(Responsible Department Committee: Graduate)
- 2007-08                         Development of scoring rubric and holistic reading of 250T and 280T term paper/essays  
(Responsible Department Committee: Graduate, augmented by cadre of current 250T and 280T instructors)
- 2008-09                         Development of scoring rubric and holistic reading of 299 MA Thesis projects  
(Responsible Department Committee: Graduate, augmented by cadre of current thesis advisors)

2009-2010

Development of Scoring Rubric and holistic reading of essays, short stories and poems published in CSUF student critical and creative writing journals and /or presented at Department or University sponsored colloquia and conferences  
(Responsible Department Committees: Assessment, Graduate and Creative Writing)

Development of scoring rubric for the assessment of TA classroom performance  
(Responsible Department Committee: Writing)

2010-2011

Surveys of current MA students and of recent alumni, in conjunction with the preparation of Department Self-Study, as part of the Department's periodic Program Reviews  
(Responsible Department Committees: Graduate, Program Review)