



**Southern**  
Illinois University  
**Carbondale**

**Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean**  
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August 6, 2008

**MEMO TO:** Thomas Britton, Chair  
Graduate Council

**FROM:** John A. Koropchak  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
and Graduate Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Koropchak', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**SUBJECT:** RME: Addition of English Studies Concentration  
to the MA Degree in English

Attached is a copy of the Reasonable and Moderate Extension (RME) proposing the addition of the English Studies concentration to the MA Degree in English for consideration by the Graduate Council. Please forward to the New Programs Committee for review.

Thank you.

JAK/plp

Attachment

C: David Wilson

Reasonable and Moderate Extension (RME) of English MA Program:  
Addition of English Studies Concentration

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Annex 1  
Annual Report for  
Academic Affairs

I. Program inventory

A. Current

<u>CIP</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Specialization/ Concentration</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Unit</u>
23.0101	English	General Creative Writing Preprofessional Teaching Specialization	BA	English
	English	Literature Rhetoric and Composition	MA	English
	English		PhD	English
23.0501	Creative Writing		MFA	English

B. Proposed

<u>CIP</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Specialization/ Concentration</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Unit</u>
23.0101	English	General Creative Writing Preprofessional Teaching Specialization	BA	English
	English	Literature Rhetoric and Composition English Studies	MA	English
	English		PhD	English
23.0501	Creative Writing		MFA	English

II. Reason for proposed action

At this point, the English MA degree program offers nothing to prospective students whose career interests or immediate educational interests lie outside research and scholarly pursuits. The proposed additional concentration to the English MA program is designed for students who wish to extend their knowledge of English in a curriculum that is flexible enough to accommodate those who want to study in depth a particular historical period, national literature, or genre as well as those interested in an interdisciplinary study of literature, writing, and related fields. With this new English Studies concentration, the English Department could admit applicants to its graduate program whom it currently cannot in good conscience admit, not because of poor applicant qualifications, but because the existing areas of concentration do not meet the stated needs or interests of those applicants.

The existing MA program offered by the English Department focuses on the needs of graduate students with an interest in continuing their education at the PhD level, with the organization of the curriculum and attendant program requirements designed to prepare students in areas of research and scholarship. In both existing areas of concentration, Literature and Rhetoric/Composition, students participate in a highly structured curriculum designed to meet preliminary needs required for admission to a PhD program in English. Some students, who choose not to continue their graduate education, take the generalist education they receive along with their graduate teaching experience to find teaching positions at small four-year or community colleges. In either case, these students enter the English MA program with the intention of working in higher education.

Some applicants, however, have other interests or goals. This proposed concentration will allow the English Department to admit such applicants and work with them in an area of concentration that replaces the structure and requirements necessary for training in research and scholarship for one that allows a greater degree of self-selection. Specifically, high school teachers already employed in secondary education represent one group potentially attracted to this graduate option—working professionals interested in a substantial MA program that will enhance their credentials and broaden their knowledge in the area(s) they teach. For example, the added coursework, replacing research-oriented program requirements, along with a flexible oral examination as the terminal event in the degree program fit more comfortably into the working schedules and professional needs of secondary teachers. The attached curriculum and requirements demonstrates the way this proposed concentration takes advantage of existing English courses but varies upon the existing program objectives. The English faculty unanimously approved this proposed addition to its MA curriculum, which reveals the level of interest in and commitment to meeting the needs of students whom the English Department currently does not serve. Moreover, faculty have already volunteered to offer more evening courses, Saturday morning courses, and, if needed, off-campus courses.

III. Anticipated budgetary effects

No new funding will be required to begin this proposed concentration. Some funding and logistics will be required eventually if off-campus courses are offered.

IV. Arrangements to be made for (a) affected faculty, staff and students; and (b) affected equipment and physical facilities

None, students will enroll in course the English Department already offers.

V. Will other educational units, curricula, or degrees be affected by this action

No, the area of concentration is designed for students already trained in and wishing to extend their knowledge of English language and literature.

VI. Any other relevant information

VII. Catalog copy to be deleted or added

The text below represents additions to and deletions from the 2007-2008 *Graduate Catalog* with new text identified in bold font and deletions with strike-through.

The English Department offers three areas of concentration at the master's level: 1) Literature, 2) Rhetorical and Composition, and 3) English Studies. The Master of Arts degree in English with a concentration in Literature or Composition and Rhetoric requires satisfactory completion of 30 semester hours, of which 15 must be earned in 500-level courses at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. M.A. students may elect to concentrate their study on literature or on rhetoric and composition.

All students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. *Core courses.*

Four literature courses: two from Group I, representing two different historical periods; and two from Group II, representing two different historical periods — 12 hours

Group I:

- (a) Old and Middle English literatures
- (b) Renaissance and 17th Century English literature
- (c) Restoration and 18th Century English literature
- (d) 19th Century English literature

Group II:

- (a) American literature before 1900
- (b) American literature since 1900
- (c) Modern British literature
- (d) Modern Continental literature

2. *Concentrations.* Satisfactory completion of one of the concentrations detailed below.

3. *Foreign Language.* This requirement may be satisfied by completing, with an average not less than *B*, two years of college-level work in one foreign language or FL 488, a research-tool course, or ENGL 402 plus ENGL 506 (*Beowulf*), or the equivalent. Equivalent work will be judged on an ad-hoc basis by the Director of Graduate Studies.

4. *Research paper/thesis.* This requirement may be satisfied either by submitting to the Director of Graduate Studies two copies of a research paper which has received a grade of not less than *B* in a 500-level English course (a rhetoric/composition course for students in that concentration), or by taking English 599 (3 hours) and writing an acceptable thesis.

5. *Final examination.* This requirement must be satisfied as specified below.

*Literature Concentration*

English 401 or 402 or 403 — 3 hours

Two additional literature courses so that a student has covered three periods in Group I and three periods in Group II — 6 hours

Electives should include a literary criticism/theory course and may include English 599 — 6 hours

Satisfactory completion of a written examination over six historical periods and a reading list. If a student writes a thesis, the examination is oral over the thesis and course work.

*Rhetoric & Composition Concentration*

English 401 — 3 hours

English 596 — 3 hours

English 597 — 3 hours

One of the following (3 hours)

English 501, English 581, English 490, English 491, or an appropriate special topics course (this decision is to be made in consultation with the Area Head of Rhetoric & Composition).

English 599 (3 hours)

Satisfactory completion of a thesis and an oral examination over the thesis and coursework

The Master of Arts degree in English with a concentration in English Studies requires satisfactory completion of 36 semester hours, of which 18 must be earned in 500-level courses at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. All students in the English Studies concentration must satisfy the following requirements:

1. *Core Courses:* At least one course from seven of the following areas:

- (a) Language and Grammar Studies
- (b) Old/Medieval English Literature
- (c) Renaissance/17<sup>th</sup>-Century British Literature
- (d) Restoration/18<sup>th</sup>-century British Literature

(e) 19<sup>th</sup>-century British Literature

(f) Early American Literature

(g) Modern American Literature

(h) Modern British Literature

(i) Modern Continental Literature

(j) Composition and Rhetoric

2. *Electives*: 15-credit-hours, up to nine hours may be taken outside the English Department

3. *Final Examination*: Satisfactory completion of an oral examination over coursework

Students in the English Studies concentration may request a graduate assistantship provided they receive all GA training required by the English Department. Priority, however, is given to students in the other two areas of concentration because those areas of concentrations are designed to meet the specific needs of students preparing to teach at the college or university level.

VIII. The requested effective date of implementation

August 2008, though the English Department could begin admitting students earlier because the proposed concentration does not require any initial changes to procedures in the English graduate program.

\*\*This request is required to go through the office of the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs before approval of the Faculty Senate and/or Graduate Council.