English, MA Plan I Thesis Option

Thesis Requirements:
All Master of Arts in English Programs share certain basic requirements (listed below).

This program leads to an M.A. in English, and includes the thesis option. You take 24 hours of coursework (8 courses), plus a minimum of six hours of thesis credit (EH 699). The six hours would ordinarily be spread across a minimum of two semesters, generally toward the end of your program. If you are not finished with the thesis at the end of those 6 hours, you may take additional thesis hours, subject to the rules about time-to-completion of the degree. You must register for thesis hours in the semester you complete and defend the thesis, and in any other semester or term where you anticipate requiring your advisor’s assistance. Other than basic requirements overviewed below, there are no other specific courses required. For more on the thesis, contact the Director of English Graduate Studies (laurel.bollinger@uah.edu).

Basic Requirements:

• At least half of the hours you take toward your degree (but not including any thesis hours) should be at the 600 level.

• At least 18 hours in your program should be in literature. To count, a course should deal with literature directly, rather than with writing or other topics. Please check to confirm if you have any questions about a specific course. Special certificate programs require additional hours that are determined in consultation with the appropriate program advisors.

• You must complete all work toward your degree within thirty semesters of the first course you take (counting summers). Courses taken between eighteen and thirty semesters prior to your degree program completion date may be re-validated by departmental exams negotiated with the specific faculty member who has responsibility for that course; any graduate course more than thirty semesters old may not be used.

• EH 540 and EH 649 indicate “Special Topics” courses. Often these are new courses, or courses taught by visiting faculty. You may include any number of these classes in your program of study, as long as you meet other requirements.

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• Up to nine hours of graduate work in English may be transferred from other institutions with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies (laurel.bollinger@uah.edu). At least nine hours in English courses numbered 600 or above must be completed here at UAH (exclusive of thesis hours).

• To be a full-time student, you will need to take a course load of 9 hours per semester. While you are permitted to take up to 15 semester hours per term, you should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies (laurel.bollinger@uah.edu) about doing so.

• You must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all courses taken at the graduate level. If in any semester your cumulative GPA falls below that 3.0 level, you will be placed on probation. You might also wish to assess your commitment to a graduate program.

• All students complete either a thesis or a capstone project. For more information, see the FAQ (https://www.uah.edu/ahs/departments/english/programs/graduate/faq) on the English Department Graduate page.

• You must demonstrate reading proficiency of French, German, Spanish, or another language deemed by the department to be academically appropriate. Adequate reading knowledge may be demonstrated by one of the following options:

  • Three semesters or their equivalent in one language with a minimum average grade of B at an accredited institution, completed not more than five years before your first graduate course in the UAH program or taken during your time in the M.A. program.

  • Intermediate-level performance on a UAH examination in the language, given by arrangement with the appropriate member of the faculty in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

• In lieu of the language requirement, additional graduate coursework of three semester hours in Linguistics. EHL 505 (Survey of General Linguistics) or EHL 507 (Advanced English Grammar Studies) or a designated course of a similar nature is required. These three semester hours are generally in addition to the hours required for the M.A. degree itself. Bear in mind that many Ph.D. programs still expect proficiency in one or often two foreign languages, however.