

11-30-2009

## English M.A. Requirement Changes, Literature Track

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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The College at  
**ROCKPORT**

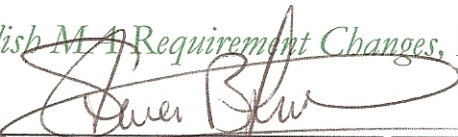
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
College Senate  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

Resolution # 05  
2009-2010  
College Senate

New Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supersedes Res #: \_\_\_\_\_


TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President  
FROM: The College Senate: *November 30, 2009*

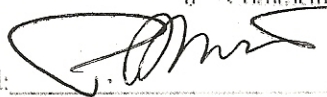
RE:  I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)  
II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)  
III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

SUBJ: *English MA Requirement Changes, Literature Track (routing #11 09-10 GC)*  
Signed:  Date: 12/09/09  
*(Steven Lewis, 2009-10 College Senate President)*

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: Steven Lewis, The College Senate President  
FROM: *John R. Halstead, College President*

RE:  I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)  
a.  Accepted - Implementation Effective Date: Fall 2010  
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation  
II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI  
a. Received and acknowledged \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
b. Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:  Date: 12/14/09  
*(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport)*

**DISTRIBUTION**

Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at <http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions>.

**COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE  
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

<b>Routing Number</b> <i>Routing # assigned by Senate Office</i>	<b>#11 09-10 GC</b> <i>Use routing number and title in all reference to this proposal.</i>
<b>Replaces Resolution</b>	<b>#</b>

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28**

Incomplete proposals or proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

**INSTRUCTIONS** – please, no multiple attachments – each proposal must be submitted electronically as one document.

- Submit only complete proposals. Include support letters from department chair and dean.
- Proposals must be prepared individually in Word format using committee guidelines available at [brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html](http://brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html).
- Fill out this cover page for each proposal and insert it electronically as the front page of your document. ([collegesenate/proposal.html](http://collegesenate/proposal.html))
- Email whole proposal with cover page as one document to [senate@brockport.edu](mailto:senate@brockport.edu) and [facprez@brockport.edu](mailto:facprez@brockport.edu).
- All updates must be resubmitted to the Senate office with the original cover page including routing number.
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. **PROPOSAL TITLE:** Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

English MA Requirement Changes, Literature Track

**2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

A proposal for two changes to the MA requirements in English, for the Literature Track only, effective Fall 2010:

- 1) Replace ENL 601 Bibliography with ENL 690 Advanced Writing in the Discipline
- 2) Replace ENL 698 Thesis with ENL 697 Advanced Project in Literature

3. **WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET BE NEEDED?**  **NO**  **YES**

4. **HOW WILL THIS EFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS:**

No effect on undergraduate transfer students.

5. **ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:**

Fall 2010

6. **SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES:** PLEASE PUT A DATE ON ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

<i>First Submission</i>	<i>Updated on</i>	<i>Updated on</i>	<i>Updated on</i>
October 5, 2009	October 23, 2009		

7. **SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
J. Roger Kurtz	English	X5823	rkurtz@brockport.edu

8. **COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)**

<b>Standing Committee</b>	<b>Forwarded For Approval To</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies	Committee for approval	10/14/09, 10/23/09
<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies	Executive Committee	11/9/09
<input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies *	GED to Vice Provost	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies	Senate	11/16/09, 11/23/09 vote passed
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies	College President	
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies	OTHER	
* follow special Gen Ed procedures for submission of General Education proposals at "How to Submit Proposals" on our Website.		
REJECTED -WITHDRAWN		

NOTES:

Revised October 23, 2009

TO: Faculty Senate  
FROM: J. Roger Kurtz, Department of English

**RE: Changes to English MA Requirements, Literature Track**

A proposal for two changes to the MA requirements in English, for the Literature Track only, effective Fall 2010:

- 1) **Replace ENL 601 Bibliography with ENL 690 Advanced Writing in the Discipline**
  - a) **Comparison of old program to new:**

Existing Program	Proposed Changes
<b>Literature Track</b> <i>3 ENL 601 Bibliography</i> 3 One course in grammar, linguistics, sociolinguistics, history of language, or English lit before 1500 3 Course in Brit Lit before 1800 3 Course in Brit Lit after 1800 3 Course in American Lit before 1870 3 Course in American Lit after 1870 12-17 Electives <i>1-6 ENL 698 Thesis</i>	<b>Literature Track</b> 3 One course in grammar, linguistics, sociolinguistics, history of language, or English lit before 1500 3 Course in Brit Lit before 1800 3 Course in Brit Lit after 1800 3 Course in American Lit before 1870 3 Course in American Lit after 1870 15 Electives <i>3 ENL 690 Advanced Writing in the Discipline*</i> <i>3 ENL 697 Advanced Project in Literature **</i>
36 TOTAL CREDITS	36 TOTAL CREDITS  <i>*Prerequisites: 12 hours of graduate credit</i> <i>**Prerequisites: B- in ENL 690 and GPA of 3.0</i>

## b) Rationale -- Mission, market and quality

Old – ENL 601 Bibliography	New – ENL 690 Advanced Writing in the Discipline
Taken at start of MA program (no pre-requisites)	Taken at end of MA program, as capstone course (12 graduate credit hours required)
Prepares students for graduate-level coursework	Prepares students for final writing project in ENL 697
	Final project constitutes proposal for ENL 697
No minimum grade requirement	Minimum grade of B- required for continuing to ENL 697

In recent years it has become increasingly clear that ENL 601 does not meet the needs of our graduate students as well as we would hope. The course was originally envisioned as one that all graduate students would take at the start of their program, and that it would prepared them for the type of writing they would encounter in graduate school—especially their final project, the thesis.

That goal has not always worked out in a satisfactory manner. Students do not necessarily take the course when they should, and even if they do the time that passes between the course and the final project (the thesis) is often long enough that the benefits are lost. If students took the course closer to the time of their final writing project, it would be more beneficial to them.

By replacing 601 with 690, the main goal is to increase students' opportunities for success in completing their final project, whether it is the thesis (from the old curriculum) or a final writing assignment (new proposal, below). By putting this course at the end of the program, it allows students to more effectively prepare for their final project, which should increase their success rate.

This change supports our graduate program's mission of offering training in the effective study and interpretation of literature. We believe it will allow a higher percentage of students successfully complete the MA program, even as it enhances the quality of their experience and their work.

## c) Description of new course

**ENL 690: Advanced Writing In the Discipline (3 credit hours).** *To be taken upon completion of 12 graduate credit hours. A grade of "B-" or higher is required to proceed to ENL 697: Advanced Project in Literature.* "Advanced Writing in the Discipline" is the capstone course for the English MA degree with a concentration in Literature. Its purpose is twofold: (1) to prepare students for the final project, a 30-35 page scholarly essay that contributes substantially to current discussions within the student's chosen field; (2) to acquaint students with the practices and conventions of advanced academic writing (such as peer review and revision). Below is a description of how the course would work.

- Each student will be required once during the semester to present the class and the instructor with an essay submitted in a prior course at least 15 pages in length that the student would like to rework for the Advanced Project in Literature. The essay will be discussed during class in a workshop: students will be required to offer commentary (perhaps in writing) and suggestions for revision, and the instructor will offer recommendations as well while guiding the review process.
- On the day in which the student's work is considered by the class, the student may be required to begin the discussion of the paper with a 20-minute conference-style presentation. The student should come to class prepared to answer questions about the submitted essay and to receive recommendations.

- Time permitting, instructors should supplement the activities outlined above with assignments that acquaint students with the elements of advanced academic writing, such as book reviews and analytical responses to assigned readings. Faculty in the department may be invited to speak to the class about their own published work.
- The culminating project in ENL 690 will be an annotated bibliography developed in response to the suggestions of other students and the instructor. This annotated bibliography, along with a brief (2-3 paragraph) summary of the project in abstract form, will be given to the student's committee for review in the following semester along with the essay. The annotated bibliography and essay will constitute the proposal for the culminating project.

**d) Staffing**

There is no need for additional staff with this proposal.

**e) Academic administration commentary**

This relatively minor adjustment in the MA program has been approved by the English department graduate committee, by the department as a whole, and by the English department chairperson. It is judged that review by the Dean of the School and the Graduate Dean is not necessary.

**f) Resources, facilities and non-teaching staff needed**

No change is required in this area.

**g) Cooperating departments**

Students pursuing a Masters in Education with a concentration in English will no longer have ENL 601 as a Liberal Arts elective, but will have plenty of other and in fact more appropriate courses to choose from, as in the past (see *2007-2009 Graduate Studies Catalog*, p. 114).

**2) Replace ENL 698 Thesis with ENL 697 Advanced Project in Literature**

**a) Comparison of old program to new:**

Existing Program	Proposed Changes
<b>Literature Track</b> 3 <i>ENL 601 Bibliography</i> 3 One course in grammar, linguistics, sociolinguistics, history of language, or English lit before 1500 3 Course in Brit Lit before 1800 3 Course in Brit Lit after 1800 3 Course in American Lit before 1870 3 Course in American Lit after 1870 12-17 Electives 1-6 <i>ENL 698 Thesis</i>  36 TOTAL CREDITS	<b>Literature Track</b> 3 One course in grammar, linguistics, sociolinguistics, history of language, or English lit before 1500 3 Course in Brit Lit before 1800 3 Course in Brit Lit after 1800 3 Course in American Lit before 1870 3 Course in American Lit after 1870 15 Electives 3 <i>ENL 690 Advanced Writing in the Discipline*</i> 3 <i>ENL 697 Advanced Project in Literature **</i>  36 TOTAL CREDITS  <i>*Prerequisites: 12 hours of graduate credit</i> <i>**Prerequisites: B- in ENL 690 and GPA of 3.0</i>

## b) Rationale -- Mission, market and quality

Old – ENL 698 Thesis	New – ENL 697 Advanced Project in Literature
1-6 credits	3 credits
Typically 50-70 pages	Typically 30-35 pages
No preparatory work required	Builds on writing in ENL 690
May last multiple semesters	One semester only
Director plus two readers	Director plus two readers

For a number of years, the English MA program has used the writing of a thesis as the sole option for a student's final project in the program. Discipline-wide, this is only one of a number of models that are and have been used, here and elsewhere. We propose to replace the thesis requirement with a more flexible advanced writing assignment.

By changing from a thesis to an “advanced project,” we believe that we will contribute to the flexibility of each student's program, allowing for a greater chance of success for a larger number of our students. While a thesis serves well those students who are planning to pursue doctoral study, most of our students do not fall in this category. Students may still write a very long project, but for the majority of our students, particularly those who are pursuing an MA in order to receive permanent certification as teachers, the advanced project option is a superior choice because of the flexibility and nature of the project.

This change increases our flexibility, but we do not believe it will decrease the quality of our MA. At present, most students in our program use 6 credits for their thesis. Decreasing the length and scope of the final project (from the 50-70 page range to the 30-35 page range) will be made up for by the fact that this 3-credit project will require students to take an additional 3-credit class. Furthermore, students will be prepared for the writing of this project by the work they have completed in ENL 690 (see first proposal, above).

This change applies only to those MA students in our Literature track. Students in our other track, Creative Writing, will continue to write the thesis, which usually takes the form of a creative project with a critical introduction. We believe this model continues to be most appropriate for graduate students in Creative Writing.

This change supports our graduate program's mission of offering training in the effective study and interpretation of literature. We believe it will allow a higher percentage of students successfully complete the MA program, even as it enhances the quality of their experience and their work

## c) Description of new course

**ENL 697: Advanced Project in Literature (3 credits).** *Available only to students who have earned at least a grade of “B-” in “Advanced Writing in the Discipline” and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher in graduate coursework.*

- The student will rewrite the paper presented in “Advanced Writing in the Discipline” under the supervision of a two-person committee. Both the initial and final versions of the paper must be submitted in a portfolio to the committee upon completion of the project. Minimum length for the final paper is 30-35 pages (notes included).
- The student and the director will agree on a schedule for work during the semester in which ENL 697 is to be taken. A copy of this schedule, signed by the student and the director, will be kept on file.

- The Advanced Project will meet the following minimum standards: 1) It will demonstrate understanding of the historical and/ or theoretical debates relevant to the topic. 2) It will demonstrate mastery of the critical tradition relevant to the primary texts or texts of the study. 3) It will provide a thorough analysis of the primary text or texts. 4) It will meet professional standards of structural clarity and in the quality of its prose. 5) It will contribute new knowledge to an existing scholarly discussion.
- The committee will arrange to meet with the student for a defense of the project once it has been deemed acceptable by the director of the committee, and both members will sign a document verifying that the project is acceptable after the defense. The Graduate Coordinator will not sign the student's Graduation Data Card or Revised Plan of Study (the final paperwork necessary for graduation) until these signatures have been collected.
- After the defense, the director will determine a grade for the project.

**d) Staffing**

There is no need for additional staff with this proposal.

**e) Academic administration commentary**

This relatively minor adjustment in the MA program has been approved by the English department graduate committee, by the department as a whole, and by the English department chairperson. It is judged that review by the Dean of the School and the Graduate Dean is not necessary.

**f) Resources, facilities and non-teaching staff needed**

No change is required in this area.

**g) Cooperating departments**

No other departments are affected, outside of English.