

# The MA in English at Virginia Tech (2014-)

All students are required to take:

## Two Gateway Courses

ENGL 5014: Introduction to Literary Research (3 hours)

ENGL 5024: Critical Theory in English Studies (3 hours)

## One of the following Pathway Courses

ENGL 5474: Teaching Literature

ENGL 5464: Introduction to Medical Humanities

ENGL 5074: Digital Humanities

## A Capstone Project (*one of the following*):

ENGL 5974: Independent Study (3 hours)

ENGL 5994: Thesis (6 hours)

## Scholarly Ethics Requirement

GRAD 5014: Academic Integrity and Plagiarism (1 hour) (see the Graduate Handbook for all of the Scholarly Ethics & Integrity requirements)

**Students with Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) must also complete these 9 hours in their first semester**

**(NB: Only the *first three* of these courses count towards the degree):**

ENGL 5004: Theory and Practice of University Writing Instruction (6 hours)

GRAD 5004: **GTA Training Workshop** (1 hour)\*

\* The Graduate School will carry out your registration for **GRAD 5004**.

GRAD 5124: Library Research Skills (English section, 1 hour—only if no graduate hours have been transferred)

+ this non-degree hour:

ENGL 5994: Research Hours (In order to reach the 18-hour threshold, unless graduate hours have been transferred, GTAs will also need to register for 1 hour of ENGL 5994 their first semester.)

**In the second, third, and fourth semesters, GTAs will also take ENGL 5034: Practicum (3 hours)\*\***

**Beyond the Required Courses, GTAs will take a minimum of 15 hours of courses in the major; non-GTAs will take a minimum of 21 hours\*\*\* of courses in the major for a minimum total of 36 semester hours.**

Up to six hours may be taken at the 4000-level or from other departments or graduate course hours transferred (from other departments at Virginia Tech or from other universities).

## Completing the Capstone Project:

Toward the end of your first year you must submit a **Preliminary Capstone Form** indicating whether you will complete a Thesis or an Independent Study and providing the names of your director and reader(s). The form also asks you to provide an abstract (100-200 words) of your proposed

\*\* Students must be registered in **ENGL 5034** (Practicum) in their second, third, and fourth semesters as well, but these 3 credits count only towards the 12 required each term to make a student full time. They *will not* count towards the 36 hours of the degree.

\*\*\* This number increases by 3 hours if the Independent Study Capstone option is selected.

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project).

At the beginning of September of your second year you will submit a **Capstone Proposal Form** that will include a complete proposal and a bibliography. You will have approximately 3 weeks to receive comments from your committee members that you will use to complete the **Capstone Revised Proposal Form**.

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### Graduation Deadlines may be found [here](#):

The Graduate School requires Masters students to complete a **Plan of Study** before the end of their first year of study. The Plan of Study must be approved by the student's faculty advisor and by the Director of Graduate Studies. Forms are available from the graduate secretary or at the English graduate program website.

At the beginning of your last semester, ensure that your **Plan of Study** is current and accurate.

For Spring Graduation, complete an **Application for Degree** form on Hokie Spa by March 1 of that year.

The **Request to Admit Candidate to Final Exam form** must be signed and submitted to the Graduate School *at least two weeks prior* to your desired defense date.

You must complete your Capstone Project defense by early May (the specific deadline for your year of graduation may be found [here](#)). Ideally, aiming for a defense by mid-April will provide you and your committee with sufficient flexibility to ensure deadlines are met.

The **final exam checklist** will assist you in reviewing your student record to ensure you have completed all items prior to submitting your final exam form.

Following the defense of the thesis, submit your **Thesis Approval Form** with original signatures and **upload** your ETD within 2 weeks of your Defense.