

## Department of English Language and Literature

### Student Outcome Assessments—Graduate Program in English (Literature and Creative Writing Emphases)

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT NOT YET APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S GRADUATE FACULTY. THIS DOCUMENT WAS CREATED FOLLOWING THE CHFA "MAKE IT AND TAKE IT" WORKSHOP IN NOVEMBER. FULL FACULTY INPUT AND REVISION WILL OCCUR THROUGHOUT SPRING, 2007.

—Samuel Gladden, Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English

In each section below, the goal is underlined, the outcomes to be measured are listed beneath it, and the artifacts are italicized at the conclusion of the list.

#### Critical Thinking

- To integrate existing scholarship from multiple perspectives in the student's original work
- To contextualize research findings in terms of interpretive and/or theoretical traditions
- To synthesize research and develop original arguments based on that research
- To sustain and conclude arguments and/or interpretations throughout a seminar-length paper (20-30 pages)
- *Comprehensive Examination, including the Major Texts (written) Examination and the Specialty (oral) Examination*

#### Research

- To locate, evaluate, and draw from a variety of sources, including, when appropriate, manuscript sources, print sources, and electronic sources
- To define graduate-level topics
- To develop original arguments appropriate to foundational and recent studies in the discipline
- *Seminar papers; Theses or Research Papers and Writing Portfolios*

#### Writing

- To demonstrate a command of traditional English
- To provide evidence of the ability to write in various professional modes, including the scholarly manuscript and the conference presentation
- To demonstrate facility with the MLA documentation style
- *Major Texts Examination; Seminar Papers; Texts of Conference Papers*

Speaking

- To demonstrate fluency and grace in delivering oral presentations of original work
- To show the ability to alter speaking modes for a variety of contexts, including formal and informal presentations, teaching opportunities, and participation in small-group work
- To engage classmates in conversations informed by course-appropriate vocabulary and conceptual models
- *Specialty Examination; Podcasts and other Recordings of Conference Presentations; Teaching Evaluations (for students with teaching assistantships only)*

Professionalization

- To understand and demonstrate the ability to meet the requirements of the graduate program
- To create a variety of CVs, application letters, and writing samples suitable for use in diverse job applications
- To appreciate the opportunities and limitations of the discipline, especially with regard to employment
- *Successful completion of the Introduction to Graduate Studies course (620.201); Successful completion of the M.A. in English; Job Market dossiers*