## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Dean Randy L. Diehl, in the College of Liberal Arts has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following addition to the Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive application and of primary interest only to a single college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the changes on February 10, 2016, and forwarded the proposal to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with UT System.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by February 17, 2016.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

Posted on the Faculty Council website (http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/) on February 11, 2016.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Type of Change $\quad \boxtimes$ Academic Change<br>Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification $\quad \boxtimes$ Exclusive $\quad \square$ General $\quad \square$ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program?
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus?
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically?
Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$
Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$
Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$


## 2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

Major Hours. We propose to reduce the total hours required for the English major in order to facilitate timely graduation for our students, particularly those who are pursuing second majors, certificate programs, transcript-recognized minors, etc. We reviewed the existing major requirements for our peer Liberal Arts departments and centers, as well as the number of University- and College-level core requirements that may be completed in conjunction with those major requirements, and concluded that twenty-seven hours is an appropriate figure for English. Our expectation is that the resulting loss in departmental semester credit hours will be offset by gains in the number of English majors, by an increase in hours required to complete an English (transcript-recognized) minor, by rising participation in our new Creative Writing field of study, and by the expanded allocation of faculty resources to the teaching of in-demand service courses and flags.

1 and 2. To align with the wording of other English requirements in the catalog, as well as to allow for midcatalog inventory changes, we are opting for a descriptive statement for these requirements, rather than an itemized list of course options; a list of course options will continue to be available online for our undergraduate majors. The English Department is in the process of approving courses that are a fit for the requirement. Adding existing and in-development courses to the list of applicable courses for the requirement would be both appropriate and, most importantly, streamline our degree plan for undergraduate majors. In eliminating the former "Area C" requirement, we have only two spots remaining for lowerdivision English courses to apply toward the undergraduate major. For this reason, and want all courses that should count toward the major to count toward the major. Our other major requirements in the catalog that refer students to a departmental list have been ideal, in that the catalog continues to provide students with certainty about both the credit hours and type of course needed for the major, while also giving us the flexibility to be entrepreneurial with our course offerings and up-to-date with published lists.
8. The bulk of our major requirements aim for breadth of study within English, with an additional six hours of English upper-division elective targeted at building depth. Originally, this requirement intended to serve as a capstone course for English majors; however, our students' interests within English are incredibly diverse, so much so that offering enough topics to appropriately match individual student preparation proved an impossible task, especially in light of course enrollment minimums. As a result, most of our students were forced either to opt for a more generic course that offered some practice in research but no capstone experience, or to settle for an in-depth course on a topic for which they were not sufficiently prepared or invested. In order to continue to provide substantive research opportunities for our students, our intent is to include additional independent inquiry-flagged courses throughout our curriculum. Should the

Independent Inquiry flag requirement be adopted for the Bachelor of Arts degree, item 8 will again be something of a de facto requirement for most of our majors, as well.
9. Beginning with the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog, these three hours replaced Rhetoric and Writing (RHE) 306 in the English major. Given that UT Austin students must complete RHE 306 as a prerequisite for required English courses, doing so effectively made English a thirty-six-hour major. These three additional hours in English served no substantial curricular purpose: they were meant to provide struggling students with an opportunity to take another lower-division course in English prior to advancing to upperdivision, and for more developed students simply to take more English. Because the former group is relatively small, and also composed of students who often choose to leave English for majors they perceive to be a better fit, the decision to jettison this relatively recent addition to the major was an easy one.

Honors 1. Adjusted to reflect the proposed change in the major above (item 8).
Honors 2 and 3. The English Honors Program Committee agreed that moving to a single minimum grade expectation of $B+$ for all honors courses was both logical and prudent.

Honors 5. In that sixty hours in residence are now required for any UT Austin Bachelor of Arts degree, this statement is superfluous.

Honors Addition. Our existing thesis course, 679 H , concludes in the spring semester of a student's final year. The majority of UTeach-Liberal Arts English teacher certification program students are immersed in an intensive, off-campus teaching practicum during the spring of the final year, rendering writing a thesis at that time wholly impractical. The English Honors Committee prioritized creating an opportunity for UTeach students to complete our honors program on a four-year timeline: the addition of a four-credit thesis option, to be completed by UTeach Honors students in the fall of the senior year, is the result.

## 3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)

$\square$ Courses in other colleges
$\square$ Courses in proposer's college that
$\square$ Flags are frequently taken by students in other colleges
$\square$ Course in the core curriculumChange in admission requirements (external or internal)
$\square$ Change in course sequencing for an existing program
$\boxtimes$ Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)

## 4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools?

Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$ If yes, then how?
b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$ If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college?

Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? $\quad$ Yes $\square$ No $\boxtimes$ If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If $4 \mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{c}$, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a nonnegligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:
e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No

## If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:
Date of communication:
Response:
f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: No

## 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: February 19, 2015 English Faculty Committee
College approval date: May 5, $2015 \quad$ College of Liberal Arts Policy \& Curriculum Committee
Dean approval date: May 25, $2015 \quad$ College of Liberal Arts Faculty

## PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

## ENGLISH

## Major

[Thirty three semester] Twenty-seven hours of English, including at least [twenty four] twenty-one semester hours of upper-division coursework consisting of the following:

1. [English 314J, 314L, or 314V] An introductory literary studies course
2. [English $316 \mathrm{~L}, 316 \mathrm{M}, 316 \mathrm{~N}$, or 316 P ] An introductory literature survey course
3. An upper-division course in literature or language prior to 1630
4. An upper-division course in literature or language from 1630 to 1830
5. An upper-division course in literature or language from 1830 to 1940
6. An upper-division diverse perspectives course
7. An upper-division single- or dual-author course
[8. An upper-division research seminar]
[9] 8. [Nine] Six additional semester hours of upper-division coursework in English[, ineluding at least six semester hours of upper-division coursework]

A list of courses that may be used to fulfill requirements [3-9] is available in the English Advising Office, Parlin Hall 114, and on the Department of English Web site.

The student must make a grade of at least $C$ - in each course counted toward fulfillment of the major requirements. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in courses taken at the University and counted toward the major is also required.

Students are discouraged from taking more than six semester hours of coursework in English in a semester. No student may take more than nine hours of coursework in English in a semester.

## English Honors Program

Majors who plan to seek special honors in English should apply for admission to the honors program prior to their junior year. Application forms and information about the program are available in the English Advising

Office, Parlin Hall 114, and on the Department of English Web site. The requirements for graduation with special honors are

1. Completion of the requirements for a major in English[, except that English 679HB is substituted for the research seminar]
2. Completion of three or more upper-division English honors courses with grades of at least $B \pm$; these courses may be counted toward the requirements of the major; two of these courses must be completed prior to enrolling in English 679H[A]
3. English 679 H , Honors Tutorial Course, with a grade of at least $B+$ in $[679 \mathrm{HA}$ and a grade of at least $A$-in $679 \mathrm{HB}]$ each half, resulting in the presentation and defense of a thesis judged to be worthy of honors
4. A University grade point average of at least 3.33 and a grade point average of at least 3.66 in the coursework required for the major and for honors
[5. Completion in residence at the University of at least sixty semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.]
or
5. Completion of the requirements for a major in English
6. Completion of the requirements for the UTeach-Liberal Arts teaching certification program in English
7. Completion of three or more upper-division English honors courses withgrades of at least $B+$; these courses may be counted toward the requirements of the major; two of these courses must be completed prior to enrolling in English 370H
8. English $470 H$, Honors Tutorial Course for Teachers, with a grade of at least $B+$, resulting in the presentation and defense of a thesis judged to be worthy of honors
9. A University grade point average of at least 3.33 and a grade point average of at least 3.66 in the coursework required for the major and for honors
