

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

APPROVAL PAGE

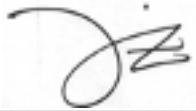
Proposal Title: Change Qualifying Exam to Portfolio Requirement in Rhetoric and Composition PhD

College: Liberal Arts

Department: English

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Joseph Ortiz

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



November 25, 2024

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa A. Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.


Signature

Date

GRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: November 18, 2024

From: Lucia Dura, PhD, Rhetoric and Writing Studies Program Director

Through: Chair Joseph Ortiz, English 

Through: Dean Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts

To: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, LACC Chair

Proposal Title: Change Qualifying Exam to Portfolio Requirement in Rhetoric and Composition PhD

The PhD in Rhetoric and Composition has included a Qualifying Exam requirement since its inception in 2004. The Qualifying Exam focuses on the material learned in the program's five core PhD classes. We are putting forth a change to the graduate catalog that substitutes the Qualifying Exam Requirement with a Portfolio Requirement. The rationale for this change is two-fold: (1) it allows for a more holistic and (2) scaffolded professional development process for PhD students post-coursework.

Since the inception of the PhD, the Rhetoric and Writing Studies program faculty have noted strengths and weaknesses of the Qualifying Exam. The Exam allows us to gauge students' comprehension of core disciplinary readings. However, it puts students under unnecessary pressure and the focus on core readings overshadows contemporary lines of study that students need to be attentive to when developing literature reviews for their dissertations.

Thus, we propose to change the Exam requirement to a Portfolio requirement, which will allow for more a more holistic and tailored review of literature as well as a scaffolded process that leads into a well-informed dissertation prospectus.

Lastly, we seek to make an additional change related to the above and delete the language requirement for the PhD. The language requirement is outdated, and it does not account for multilingual possibilities, including the perspective that coding and mathematics are also languages.

Change Qualifying Exam to Portfolio Requirement in Rhetoric and Composition PhD

<http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/english/english-rhetoric-composition-phd/>

Portfolio Requirement

Upon completion of all coursework, with the exception of RWS 6395, 6398, and 6399, students will submit a portfolio, which includes the dissertation prospectus. Portfolios must align with the guidelines approved by the RWS Graduate Program Committee. Students can obtain Portfolio Guidelines from the Program Director or from their dissertation advisor.

Dissertation

A copy of the dissertation in PDF or Word electronic format must be submitted to the Graduate School for format check prior to the scheduled defense date. The dissertation, including an abstract not to exceed 350 words, must be prepared according to the Graduate School's thesis and dissertation guidelines available at the Graduate School Web site. The student will receive email confirmation from the Graduate School after the format has been approved. The final Graduate School-approved dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate School in PDF electronic format by the deadline as published in the *Class Schedule*, along with a hard copy of the signature page with original signatures of the dissertation committee members. Information on submission procedures can be found on the Graduate School website. The signature page must be included in the PDF file but it should not be signed.

Deleted: Language Requirement¶
All students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a language other than English sufficient to conduct research using primary and secondary sources. The PhD program's emphasis on intercultural writing on the U.S.-Mexican border will lead many students to elect Spanish to satisfy this requirement.¶

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