

# CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

## APPROVAL PAGE

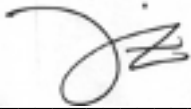
**Proposal Title:** Combining MAT in Teaching English, MA in RWS and, MA in English and American Literature into an MA in English Studies

**College:** Liberal Arts      **Department:** English

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Joe Ortiz**

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



January 21, 2025

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**Signature**

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**Date**

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**COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Selfa Chew-Melendez**

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

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**Signature**

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**Date**

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**COLLEGE DEAN – Anadeli Bencomo**

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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.

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**Signature**

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**Date**

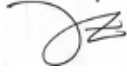
# CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: January 17, 2025

From: Brad Jacobson, English



Through: Joe Ortiz, Chair, English



Through: Selfa Chew-Melendez, Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee

Through: Anadeli Bencomo, Liberal Arts

To: Annie C. Tremblay, Chair, Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Combining MAT in Teaching English, MA in RWS and, MA in English and American Literature into an MA in English Studies

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Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

## Content

- New program or  Program Change
  - Bachelor's
  - Master's
  - Doctoral/Professional
  - Certificate
  - Fast Track
  - Minor
  - Concentration/Track
  
- New Course
  
- Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)
  
- Change
  - CIP Code
  - Program/certificate SCH
  - Course Title
  - Course Description
  - Graduate Program Admission Requirements

## Rationale

The English Department currently has three master's programs: MA in English and American Literature, MA in Rhetoric and Writing Studies (RWS), and MAT in Teaching of English. The MA in English and American Literature is solid and has growing numbers, largely because of the success of our Fast track program and because several

students in the Literature track are teachers interested in earning Dual Credit accreditation. The MA in RWS has historically been healthy but in recent years enrollment has dropped. Recent low enrollment in the MAT results from a combination of factors, including changes in dual credit certification structured by El Paso Community College. Additionally, our department has lost a significant number of senior faculty in all three programs to either retirement or colleagues moving on to and/or being recruited by other institutions. In the last 18 months the literature program alone has lost 4 senior faculty members to other institutions, and 1 senior colleague has retired. As a result, there is a big mismatch between our teaching resources and our currently enrolled MA students.

We propose merging the three program degrees into a single degree allows for a more intentional, robust common core that will benefit students by emphasizing transferrable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, multimodal literacies for teaching, research, and cultural professions. This enables the Department to leverage resources for teaching core/overlapping courses while still affording students the ability to specialize in one of three programmatic areas. The proposed MA in English Studies (with three concentrations) also ensures that enrollment across all three programs is healthy, to recruit more teachers into our joint MA, and to promote regional recruitment into our PhD program in RWS. Given the significant growth in our fast track and Literature MA, we are in the unique position to now grow our MA overall.

The THECB requires M.A.s with different concentrations to overlap in 50% of all the courses that students take. We propose to reach this 50% overlap across a combination or shared required courses, required electives from each concentration, while still ensuring sound specialized training in each concentration in terms of historical coverage.

## Curriculum for New Programs

### Proposed Consolidated Degree Plan for MA in English Studies

Required Credits **36**

<b>Core Courses (6 cr)</b>			
ENGL 5300 - Introduction to English Studies (3cr)			
ENGL 5320 – Critical Theory and Practice (3 cr)			
<b>Required Electives (12 cr)</b>			
Select one (1) course from each of the areas below (full list of courses below)			
One (1) course in Literature (3)			
One (1) course in Rhetoric/Writing (3)			
One (1) course in Pedagogy (3)			
One (1) course in Digital Humanities (3)			
<i>Note: Every student with a teaching assistantship (AI) is required to take RWS 5346: Composition Theory and Pedagogy (3 credits) in their first fall semester as an AI. This can count as the required elective for the Rhetoric/Writing or Pedagogy strands.</i>			
<b>Concentration: Rhetoric and Writing Studies (12 cr)</b>		<b>Concentration: Literature (12 Cr)</b>	
RWS 5309 – Foundations in Rhetoric (3 cr)		English Literature (ENGL 5301, 5302, 5303, or 5304; 3 cr)	
RWS 5318 – Community Literacy Internship (3 cr)		American Literature (ENGL 5305, 5306, 5307, 5308; 3 cr)	
Two (2) courses in consultation with director (6 cr)		Multicultural Literature (ENGL 5321, 5322, 5323, 5324; 3 cr)	
		One (1) ENGL course in consultation with director (3)	
<b>Concentration: Pedagogy (12 cr)</b>			
ENGL 5399 – Foundations in English Studies Pedagogy (3 cr)			
ENGL 5341 – English Studies in the Borderlands (3 cr)			
Two (2) courses in consultation with director (6 cr)			
<b>Capstone Options (6 cr)</b>			
<i>Thesis</i>	<i>Extended seminar paper</i>	<i>Written Practicum</i>	<i>Exam</i>
ENGL 5398/RWS 5398 (3) + ENGL 5399/RWS 5399 (3)	ENGL 5392 (3) + ENGL/RWS course in specialization area (3)	ENGL 5397/RWS 5397 (3) + ENGL/RWS course in specialization area (3)	ENGL 5391 (3) + ENGL/RWS course in specialization area (3)

### Full List of Elective MA in English Studies Courses

*Note: Courses marked with (DH) can serve as the required Digital Humanities course. While some courses are always designated as DH, individual course offerings may also be designated depending upon course design.*

## **Literature Courses**

### *English Literature*

- ENGL 5310 British Literature to 1485
- ENGL 5302 British Literature 1485-1660
- ENGL 5303 British Literature 1660-1832
- ENGL 5304 British Literature 1832-Present

### *American Literature*

- ENGL 5305 American Literature: Exploration to 1800
- ENGL 5306 American Literature: 1800-1865
- ENGL 5307 American Literature: 1865-1945
- ENGL 5308 American Literature: 1945-Present

### *Multicultural Literature*

- ENGL 5321 Literature of the Americas
- ENGL 5322 Literature and Culture
- ENGL 5323 Multi-cultural Literature: Theory and Practice
- ENGL 5324 Multi-cultural Literature: Special Topics

## **RWS Courses**

- RWS 5306 Research Methods in RWS
- RWS 5309 Foundations in Rhetoric
- RWS 5311 Persuasion and Argument
- RWS 5312 Technical Writing#
- RWS 5313 Grant Writing#
- RWS 5314 Multimodal Composing (DH)
- RWS 5315 Professional Writing and Rhetoric#
- RWS 5316 Graduate Writing Workshop
- RWS 5317 Editing#
- RWS 5318 Community Literacy Internship
- RWS 5322 Rhetorical Theory
- RWS 5324 Writing Program Administration
- RWS 5328 Special Topics in RWS
- RWS 5382 Postmodern Rhetoric
- RWS 5383 Global Rhetorics
- RWS 6321 Rhetoric and Technology (DH) \*Requires director approval\*

*#Also fulfills course requirement for the online Professional and Technical Writing Certificate.*

## **Pedagogy Courses**

- ENGL 5339: Foundations in English Studies Pedagogy
- ENGL 5341: English Studies in the Borderlands
- ENGL 5342: Digital Literacies and the Language Arts (DH)
- ENGL 5345: Writing to Learn
- ENGL 5380: Special topics

# CIP CODE CHANGE REQUEST

**Request type:** CIP Change

**Institution:** The University of Texas at El Paso

**Degree Level (bachelor's, master's, doctoral):** Master's

**Degree Designation Abbreviation (e.g. MA):** MA

**Degree Designation Description (e.g. *Master of Arts*):** *Master of Arts*

**Degree Program Title (e.g. Psychology):** *English Studies*

**Current Degree Program CIP Code:** 23.0101, 23.1304, 13.1305

**Proposed Degree Program CIP Code:** 23.0101

**New CIP Code Name:** English

**Administrative Unit Name & Number (e.g. Department of Biology):** Department of English

**Proposed effective date of change:** August 1, 2025

If applicable, describe the curricular changes that have been implemented to align the degree program with the requested CIP code and attach a copy of the revised curriculum that highlights the changes made.

*Note: Curricular changes that warrant a CIP code change would typically include more than 50% of the curriculum. If the request includes a change to a STEM CIP code from a non-STEM CIP code, please describe the change in learning outcomes such as emphasis on the scientific method, quantitative research, etc.):*

We are combining our three Master's programs into an M.A. in English Studies to improve the preparation and outcomes for students interested in English Studies. Merging the three program degrees into a single degree allows for a more intentional, robust common core that emphasizes transferrable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, multimodal literacies for teaching, research, and cultural professions. The proposed MA in English Studies (with three concentrations) also ensures that enrollment across all three programs is healthy, to recruit more teachers into our joint MA, and to promote regional recruitment into our PhD program in RWS.

If applicable, describe what changes have been made to the composition of faculty to ensure content area expertise in the requested CIP code:

Changes have not been made to the composition of faculty since faculty from all three programs have some overlapping expertise and responsibilities. However, the Department is ensuring that new faculty hires can increasingly contribute to overlapping needs.

If applicable, describe any accreditation implications of the requested CIP code change:

Given that the proposed CIP code is already used by the literature program and is the most general CIP code for English, the Department does not expect any changes to accreditation or implications.

If no curricular or faculty changes have been made, please describe the *academic* rationale for the requested change (e.g., changes to the overall designation of the discipline, students being prepared for employment in additional or alternate fields, accreditation requirements, etc.):

The proposed curricular changes enable the Department to leverage resources for teaching core/overlapping courses while still affording students the ability to specialize in one of three programmatic areas.

Provide up to five examples of similar programs with the proposed CIP code:

Institution	Degree Title & Designation	CIP Code
UT Tyler	MA in English	23.0101
UT Arlington	MA in English Studies	23.0101
University of Houston	MA in English	23.0101
Arizona State University	MA in English Studies	23.0101

Provide link to degree:

- <https://uttyler.smartcatalogiq.com/2024-2025/catalog/graduate-college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments-of-literature-and-languages/english-m-a/>
- <https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/liberal-arts/departments/english/graduate>
- [https://publications.uh.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=45&poid=15936&returnto=16349](https://publications.uh.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=45&poid=15936&returnto=16349)
- <https://english.asu.edu/degree/graduate/english-ma>

**Required attachment:**

- Degree program revised curriculum highlighting the changes: Attached.

## Additional Online Fields & Required Attachments for CIP Code Change Requests Due to Program Consolidation

**Program Consolidation Guidelines:**

A consolidated program requires at least one other degree program to be combined with another to create a new degree program or brought into an existing major as a concentration. The consolidated program should:

- Be a more effective and efficient degree program;
- Have a common set of courses consisting of at least 50% of the major coursework taken by all students in the degree program;
- Identify a separate set of courses for the concentration(s)/track(s) consisting of fewer than 50% of the coursework;
- Require limited to no new courses, faculty expertise, funding, or other resources; and
- Result in no disadvantages to graduates of the consolidated program.

If the consolidation is approved, the start date for the consolidated program will be the start date of the oldest existing degree program. Continue to report graduates in the degree programs being phased out under the current CIP Code until the phase-out date.

Please provide a summary of the rationale for consolidation and the benefit to students:  
 Consolidating the three current master's programs within the English department (Literature, Rhetoric & Writing Studies, and English Education) into a single degree will produce a more effective and efficient degree program. The proposed program leverages overlapping core courses. Instead of students in each program taking core courses separately, all MA students will take at least 50% of required courses together while retaining the ability to choose a concentration. This approach does not require the formation of new courses, faculty expertise, funding, or other resources and can be implemented right away. The proposed consolidation does not result in disadvantages to graduates. Instead, it offers them a more interdisciplinary, integrated degree with greater emphasis on transferability and communication of their skillset. Further, this model is utilized in other successful programs in the state and nationally.

Please list the degree programs to be consolidated:

<b>Degree Program Title &amp; Designation (e.g. Bachelor of Arts in English)</b>	<b>CIP Code</b>	<b>Closure Date</b>
<b>English and American Literature</b>	<b>23.0101</b>	<b>July 31, 2025</b>
<b>Rhetoric &amp; Writing Studies</b>	<b>23.1304</b>	<b>July 31, 2025</b>
<b>Teaching English</b>	<b>13.1305</b>	<b>July 31, 2025</b>

Will the degrees above be consolidated into a new degree or an existing degree (select one)?

- New degree program
- Existing degree program

**Please provide information below for the consolidated program:**

Degree program title: **English Studies**

Degree program designation (e.g. Master of Science in Biology): **Master of Arts**

CIP Code (new programs only): **23.0101**

CIP Code Name: **English**

Required SCH: **36**

Admin Unit Name and Number: **Department of English 0990**

## Request for Changes to Graduate Admission Requirements

The University of Texas at El Paso requests approval to change the admission criteria for the **M.A. in English Studies** (consolidation of M.A. in English and American Literature, M.A. in Rhetoric and Writing Studies, and M.A.T. in English) within the **Department of English** as follows:

**Description of Change:** (List only the changes being proposed.)

A bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution or proof of equivalent education in a foreign institution.

15 credits of advanced-level English courses and/or evidence of adequate preparation for graduate coursework in English Studies

3.0 GPA or higher

A writing sample.

A statement of purpose.

Three letters of recommendation.

Optional: a resume or other supporting materials to give a full picture of the applicant's potential.

Applicants whose degrees are from non-English speaking institutions are required to demonstrate English proficiency.

Please consult the Graduate School website for required scores.

**Rationale for Change:**

We need to make our admission requirements uniform for the consolidation of the three M.A. programs. We want the prerequisite course requirement to be flexible enough to ensure students without an English B.A. can feel confident applying to the new English Studies program.

**Current Degree Plan: Master of Arts (M.A.) in Rhetoric and Writing Studies**

Effective Fall 2016

30 Hours Total

**Foundational Course (3 hours)**

RWS 5309 Introduction to Rhetoric and Writing Studies

**Community Engagement Course (3 hours)**

RWS 5318 Community Literacy Internship

**Writing Studies Courses (12 hours)**

**Select 4 courses from below**

RWS 5306 Research Methods in RWS

RWS 5311 Persuasion and Argument

RWS 5312 Technical Writing\*

RWS 5313 Grant Writing\*

RWS 5314 Multimodal Composing

RWS 5315 Professional Writing and Rhetoric\*

RWS 5316 Graduate Writing Workshop

RWS 5317 Editing\*

RWS 5322 Rhetorical Theory

RWS 5324 Writing Program Administration

RWS 5328 Special Topics in RWS

RWS 5382 Postmodern Rhetoric

RWS 5383 Global Rhetorics

\*Also fulfills course requirement for the online Professional and Technical Writing Certificate.

**Electives (6-9 hours)**

Select 2-3 additional graduate RWS courses. Courses from outside of RWS may be taken upon approval of advisor. You will take 2 electives if you are taking the thesis option and 3 electives if you are taking the practicum option.

**Practicum/Thesis Option (3-6 hours)**

RWS 5397 Practicum (1 semester/3 hours)

RWS 5398-5399 (2 semesters/6 hours)

Current Degree Plan: Master of Arts in the Teaching of English – M.A.T.

Effective Fall 2019

36 Hours Total

**Core Curriculum (12 hours)**

ENGL 5339 Introduction to Secondary English (3)

ENGL 5341 English Studies in the Borderlands (3)

ENGL 5342 Digital Literacies and the Language Arts (3)

ENGL 5345 Writing to Learn (3)

**Electives (18 hours)**

Take 6 or 7 graduate courses from within or outside the English Department, including 5380 courses offered in English Education. If taking courses outside the Department, advance approval by the Director of English Education is required. These electives are intended to have you tailor your course work in ways that maximize the degree's usefulness to you.

**--Writing/Research Options (6 hours):** Students must choose 1 of the 3 options (A, B, or C). You will most likely make your choice after you have already completed a number of courses toward your degree.

**Option A – Written Examination**

- ENGL 5394 M.A.T. Written Examination (3)
- One graduate level ENGL course (3)

**Option B - Practicum**

- ENGL 5393 Practicum in English Education (3)
- One graduate level ENGL course (3)

**Option C – Thesis**

- English 5398 Thesis I (3)
- English 5399 Thesis II (3)

**Current Degree Plan: Master of Arts (M.A) in Literature**

Effective 2010

36 Hours Total

**Core Curriculum (15 hours)**

ENGL 5300: Introduction to Graduate Studies in English

ENGL 5320: Critical Theory and Practice or ENGL 53xx: Course that meets theory requirement

One class each from

English Literature (ENGL 5301 ENGL 5302, ENGL 5303, ENGL 5304)

American Literature (ENGL 3505, ENGL 5306, ENGL 5307, ENGL 5308)

Multicultural Literature (ENGL 5321, ENGL 5322, ENGL 5323, ENGL 5324)

**Area of Specialization (6-9 hours) from English, American, or Multicultural Literature**

**Electives (6-9 hours)** from core curriculum, or English Ed, RWS, or outside of the department with departmental approval

**Writing/Research options (3-6 hours): students choose one of the following options**

A)Written Examination (3 hours):

B)Extended Seminar Paper (3 hours)

C)Thesis I and Thesis II (6 hours):

Students choosing A or B take 33 hours course work, those choosing C take 30 hours

# COURSE CHANGE FORM

COPY OF CATALOG PAGE NOT REQUIRED

All fields below are required

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College : Liberal Arts  
2025

Department : English

Effective Term : Fall

Rationale for changing the course:

The title change represents this course's position as a core course and introduction to the theories and practices required for the new consolidated MA in English Studies. The course description change removes the old title but does otherwise change because it remains an overview course.

All fields below are required

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Subject Prefix and number ENGL 5300

Course Title Introduction to English Studies  
(Course descriptions are limited to 600 characters)  
(Course titles are limited to 29 characters)

Change	From	To
Course Title	Approach-Methods & Bibliog	Introduction to English Studies
Course Description	Approach-Methods and Bibliography (3-0) Introduces students to the range of scholarly endeavors in English studies; to the standards, methods, and tools of research in the field; and to theoretical assumptions implicit in the various analytical and critical approaches to texts. Course work will include a substantial research project carried out under close faculty supervision.	Introduces students to the range of scholarly endeavors in English studies; to the standards, methods, and tools of research in the field; and to theoretical assumptions implicit in the various analytical and critical approaches to texts. Course work will include a substantial research project carried out under close faculty supervision.

# COURSE CHANGE FORM

COPY OF CATALOG PAGE NOT REQUIRED

All fields below are required

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College : Liberal Arts  
2025

Department : English

Effective Term : Fall

Rationale for changing the course:

The consolidation of three M.A. programs will create a Pedagogy concentration to serve instructors in both secondary and postsecondary contexts. While ENGL 5339 was designed to serve secondary English teachers and those seeking dual credit certification, changing the course title and description will create a more accurate depiction for the course catalog.

All fields below are required

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Subject Prefix and number ENGL 5339

Course Title Foundations in English Studies Pedagogy  
(Course descriptions are limited to 600 characters)  
(Course titles are limited to 29 characters)

Change	From	To
Course Title	Intro to Secondary English	Foundations in English Studies Pedagogy
Course Description	This course surveys major theories and practices in contemporary secondary arts instruction, providing a history of their development and importance. Students will examine central ideas in composition and literary studies as they apply to diversity of secondary ELA classes.	This course surveys major theories and practices in contemporary English Studies instruction. Students will examine central ideas in composition and literary studies as they apply to diversity of secondary and postsecondary English Studies teaching contexts.

# COURSE CHANGE FORM

COPY OF CATALOG PAGE NOT REQUIRED

All fields below are required

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College : Liberal Arts  
2025

Department : English

Effective Term : Fall

Rationale for changing the course:

Since for the consolidated MA in English Studies there will be an introductory course, ENGL 5300 - Introduction to English Studies, the purpose of RWS 5309 - Introduction to Rhetoric and Writing Studies changes slightly to offer foundations beyond introductions, i.e., core theories, methods, and practices.

All fields below are required

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Subject Prefix and number RWS 5309

Course Title Foundations in Rhetoric and Writing Studies  
(Course descriptions are limited to 600 characters)  
(Course titles are limited to 29 characters)

Change	From	To
Course Title	Introduction to Rhetoric and Writing Studies	Foundations in Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Course Description	A comprehensive introduction to the discipline and sub-fields of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, and to relevant, historical, and theoretical methodologies.	The fundamental assumptions, historical concepts, and procedures that form the basis for research and practice in rhetoric and writing studies and its sub-disciplines.