MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Thornton Dill
    Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
      Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Master of Fine Arts in English Language and Literature, Composition and Rhetoric Concentration (PCC log no. 13015)

At its meeting on October 4, 2013, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved your proposal to modify the curriculum of the Master of Fine Arts in English Language and Literature, Composition and Rhetoric Concentration. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2014. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: Marilee Lindemann, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Erin Howard, Division of Information Technology
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment
    Anne Turkos, University Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Alex Chen, Graduate School
    Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities
    William Cohen, Department of English
College/School: ARHU 01202700—College of Arts and Humanities

Department/Program: English 1271901

Type of Action (choose one):

X Curriculum change (including informal specializations)  □ New academic degree/award program
□ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration  □ New Professional Studies award iteration
□ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration  □ New Minor
□ Suspend/delete program  □ Other

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

We propose a change of requirements for the English MA with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition. Since MA enrollments have fallen off in English recently, this is an attempt to make the Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition more attractive to professionals, secondary school teachers, community college teachers, and others in the area who are interested in a general but professional advanced degree in writing and rhetoric.

We propose to replace the 3 credit requirement of 601/602 (courses in literary method or theory) with a 6 credit requirement of 607/775 or 776 (courses in rhetorical or composition theory). In addition, we propose to change the requirement of 9 credits in literary history to electives, thus raising electives from 6 credits to 12 credits. The courses in literary history, method, and theory will still be available as electives to the students.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair Ralph Bauer 8/12/13
2. Department Chair William Cohen 8/12/13
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean Aline Mayer 8/12/13
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. University Senate Chair (if required)
8. Senior Vice President and Provost
Information for Curriculum Change Proposal
for
Department of English MA in English Language and Literature
with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition
August 2013

1. Current Requirements

Catalog Description
Master of Arts (M.A.)

The M.A. degree program requires 30 credit hours of graduate work distributed to assure coverage of major historical fields. The student either may take 24 hours of coursework and write a thesis for the other six hours, or may take 30 hours of coursework and do a capstone writing project. The department also offers a special M.A. with a Concentration in Composition and Rhetoric; this degree program requires 30 credit hours of graduate work, provides thesis and non-thesis options, and balances courses in literature with courses in the theory of composition and rhetoric.

English Department Website Description of MA Concentration in Composition and Rhetoric

This option within the Department's MA program integrates a set of courses in composition and rhetoric with the traditional master's program in literature. It directs course work toward the student's particular professional interest; e.g., the rhetorical study of texts, the teaching of writing, or professional, non-academic writing.

Course Requirements [approved Spring 2008]
The student takes a core of literature courses and a group of courses involving various aspects of the theory of composition and rhetoric, for a total of 30 credits:

1. English 601, Literary Research and Critical Contexts, or English 602, Critical Theory and Literary Criticism (3 credits)

2. One course in three of the following (9 credits):
   a) Medieval or 16th-century British literatures
   b) 17th- or 18th-century British and Colonial literatures
   c) 19th- or 20th-century British, Commonwealth, and Post-Colonial literatures
   d) American literatures to 1865 or American literatures from 1865 to the present

3. Four courses chosen from the following: (12 credits)
   English 605, Readings in Linguistics
   English 607, Readings in the History of Rhetoric to 1900
   English 611, Approaches to College Composition
English 612, Approaches to Professional and Technical Writing
English 668, Readings in Digital Studies
English 708, Topics in Rhetoric
English 775, Seminar in Composition Theory (e.g. Modern Rhetorical Theory)
English 779, Topics in Language Study (e.g. Discourse Analysis)

One related course (400 level or above) in another discipline: philosophy, speech, education, computer programming, psychological testing, etc. The course selected must be approved by the DGS or ADGS and by the Composition and Rhetoric advisor.

4. Two electives (6 credits)
   Among these required courses, students must choose at least three seminars (9 credits).
   The student pursuing the MA with a Concentration in Composition and Rhetoric who chooses to complete the MA Writing Project option will follow the program of course requirements given above. The student who chooses the thesis option will have no electives.
   Students may count one 400-level course and one independent study toward the M.A.

2. Proposed (New) Requirements
   [Note: once the curricular changes and courses are in place, we will also request a name change to “Concentration in Writing Studies and Rhetoric.”]

   The MA with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition is a 30-credit degree program, allowing course work in any one of three areas: the rhetorical study of texts, the teaching of writing, or professional/non-academic writing. The student takes courses selected from a list of courses involving various aspects of the theory of writing/composition, rhetoric, and language studies, and successfully completes an MA Capstone Project or Master’s Thesis (for a total of 30 credits):

   1) **Two** required courses (6 credits)

   ENGL 607, Readings in the History of Rhetoric to 1900 (3 credits)

   ENGL 775, Seminar in Composition Theory or
   ENGL 776, Seminar in Modern Rhetorical Theory (new course)

   2) **Four** courses chosen from the following (12 credits):

   ENGL 605, Readings in Linguistics
   ENGL 609, Technologies of Writing (new course)
   ENGL 611, Approaches to College Composition
   ENGL 612, Approaches to Professional and Technical Writing
   ENGL 618, Writing for Professionals
ENGL 649, Readings in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy (new course, but taught once under exemption rule)
ENGL 668, Readings in Digital Studies
ENGL 708, Topics in Rhetoric
ENGL 779, Topics in Language Study (e.g., Discourse Analysis)

3) **Four** electives (12 credits).
If Option Two (see below) is chosen, then **two** electives (6 credits) plus the Thesis (6 credits).

*One* 400-level course may be counted toward graduate credit for the MA, as long as it does not count toward other requirements. ENGL 494, Editing and Document Design, is strongly encouraged, since it is valuable to students pursuing a wide range of career paths.

Other possible choices are:
ENGL 482 History of the English Language; 483 American English;
ENGL 488 Topics in Advanced Writing (by permission, when the topic is appropriate);
ENGL 489 Special Topics in the English Language (by permission, when topic is appropriate);
ENGL 493 Advanced Writing: Theory and Practice.

Students may also elect to take a course in another discipline (Communication, ISchool, Education, Classics, etc.). The course must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and by the Rhetoric and Writing advisor.

If a student elects to do an independent study, he/she may count only **3** credits toward the MA.

At least **three** seminar-level courses are required, which may be counted toward any of the above requirements.

4) **MA Capstone Project or Master’s Thesis.**

Option One: MA Capstone Project. The Capstone, directed by a faculty advisor, may be based on a traditional seminar paper, revised and resubmitted; it may be a pedagogy portfolio; or it may be a digital project.

Option Two: Master’s Thesis, ENGL 799 (6 credits). If this option is chosen, The student may take 2 electives instead of 4.

Other courses may be substituted for required courses at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Rhetoric and Writing advisor.
3. Identification and Rationale for Changes

Although this curriculum looks as if there are major changes, in fact, the only major change is substituting rhetoric and composition theory for literary theory (deleting the requirement for 601 or 602, which are literary theory courses, and substituting the requirements of 607 and either 775 or 776, which are courses in rhetorical or composition theory).

Over 60% of the degree—24 credits—remains the same: the 12 credits in selected courses in writing, language, or rhetoric; the 12 credits of electives (or 6 credits of electives plus 6 credits for the MA thesis).

While the requirement of 9 credits of literature courses is dropped, it remains in the new program as an option available to students under electives.

MA enrollments have fallen off in English recently, so this is an attempt to make the MA more attractive to professionals, secondary school teachers, community college teachers, and others in the area who are interested in a general, but professional, advanced degree in writing and rhetoric.

In addition, in the last five years English has hired three new faculty in Rhetoric and Composition and is currently conducting another search. The new faculty have allowed us to expand our offerings beyond our core of history of rhetoric and composition pedagogy, an expansion which will better serve our students.

These changes to the MA with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition will help our students better fulfill our MA Program learning outcomes: 1) Demonstrate knowledge of methodological and/or theoretical concepts foundational to the discipline; 2) Produce critical, persuasive writing on topics in the discipline of English Studies; 3) Conduct research using the standard tools, printed and electronic, for study in the discipline.

4. Sample Programs

Shortest possible sample program:

**Year 1**, Fall Semester: 607, 609, 611
Spring Semester: 708*, 649, COMM course

**Year 2**: Fall Semester: 494, 775*, 708*
Spring Semester: 668, Capstone Project

Longest permitted sample program:

**Year 1**: 607, 611
Year 2: 649, 708*
Summer: Independent Study 600-level
Year 3: 776*, 618
Year 4: 708*, 609
Year 5: 494, Capstone Project
*Indicates seminars

5. Prerequisite Structure

There are no prerequisites for any of the courses, except admission to the program.

6. List of New Courses with catalog descriptions:

ENGL 609, Technologies of Writing. Readings in the technologies of writing systems, print, and new media 3 credits.

ENGL 649, Readings in Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy. Special Topics in the theory and research of rhetoric, composition, and literacy. 3 credits. Repeatable to 9 credits if content differs. [This course has already been taught once under exemption rule].

ENGL 776, Modern Rhetorical Theory. Seminar in Modern Rhetorical Theory. Theories and trends in twentieth and twenty-first century rhetorical theory. 3 credits.

7. List of Courses Deleted from Requirements

No courses will be deleted from the English Department Curriculum. However, ENGL 601 or ENGL 602, currently a requirement for this concentration, will no longer be a requirement, since they focus on literary methods and theory, but they will remain a requirement for the other English MA track, and will be available as an elective for students in this MA program.

8. Statement of Impact of proposed changes on current students:

Students enrolled in the program prior to the effective date of any curriculum change may complete their program under the old requirements if they wish. The courses required will remain available. The changes do not affect community college transfers.

9. Statement on Faculty resources:

The Department of English has made three new faculty hires in Rhetoric and Composition in the last five years and is currently conducting another search in that field. These
additional faculty resources will allow us regularly to offer sections of the new courses proposed here, as well as an adequate amount of sections of the courses newly required by the revised MA program being proposed here.

10. Letters from Impacted Departments:
   a. Classics
   b. Communication
   c. Education
   d. ISchool
July 8, 2013

Professor William Cohen, Chair
Professor Ralph Bauer, Director of Graduate Studies
Professor Jane Donawerth, Director of Writing Programs
Department of English, Tawes Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Bill, Ralph, and Jane,

The Department of Classics is happy to support the proposal for revision of the M.A. in English with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition. Since that M.A. track already allows one elective from another department at the 400 level or above, the changes in curriculum will not unduly impact Classics enrollments. We have welcomed English M.A. and Ph.D. students in the past in our classes, such as Latin 488/620 Archaic Latin (with a focus on Marcus Porcius Cato and the beginnings of Roman oratory), Latin 472/672: History and Development of the Latin Language, GREK 472/672: History and Development of the Greek Language, and CLAS 409, the Classics Capstone Seminar, taught in English. We will continue to welcome your students.

Sincerely,

Lillian Doherty, Chair

Judith P. Hallett, Graduate Director
July 26, 2013

Memorandum

To: William Cohen, Chair of English  
   Ralph Bauer, Director of Graduate Studies  
   Jan Donawerth, Chair of the MA with a Minor  
   in Rhetoric and Composition Revision Committee

Fr: Elizabeth L. Toth, Chair of Communication

Re: MA with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition revision proposal

The Department of Communication has reviewed and has no objections to the proposal for the revision of the MA with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition. Since that MA track already allows one elective from another department at the 400 level or above, the changes in curriculum will not unduly impact our enrollments. We have frequently sent our students to English classes and had English MA and PhD students in our classes. English graduate students would be especially welcome in COMM 460, COMM 461 and COMM 469 or other possibilities (please see attached courses).
The following courses feature American Public Address content and nearly always have a graduate student enrollment:

COMM 460 Public Life in American Communities, 1634-1900 (3 credits)
Ways that Americans have used their voice to create public life. Focus is on the diverse social communities that have characterized American life and the place and characteristics of oral discourse in each.

COMM 461 Voices of Public Leadership in the Twentieth Century (3 credits)
Study of the use of speaking in the power struggles of the twentieth century. Focus is on important speakers of the century, their social and policy influence, and the struggle to expand the diversity of voices with power in the public sphere.

COMM 469 The Discourse of Social Movements (3 credits)
Recommended: COMM401. Junior standing. Repeatable to 06 credits if content differs. Study of key social movements that have influenced American social and political life. In alternate years the Civil Rights Movement and the Rhetoric of Women's Suffrage and Abolitionism. Consideration of how groups excluded from or marginalized in American political life affect social change.

COMM 469 is a repeatable course and each iteration treats different social movements. Examples: The Rhetoric of Civil Rights; The Rhetoric of Second Wave Feminism

The following courses feature rhetorical theory. Although our graduate students do take these courses on occasion, they are less likely to have graduate enrollment:

COMM 450 Ancient and Medieval Rhetorical Theory (3 credits)
Prerequisite: COMM250. For COMM majors only. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: COMM450, or COMM650. A survey of rhetorical theory in the ancient and medieval periods. Emphasis is placed on the theoretical problems that gave rise to its development within both periods. Authors include Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, Hermogenes, Martianus Capella, Aurelius Augustine, Alberic of Monte Cassino, Geoffrey of Vinsauf and Robert of Basevorn.

COMM 451 Renaissance & Modern Rhetoric Theory (3 credits)
Formerly: SPCH451/COMM651. A survey of rhetorical theory in the renaissance and modern periods. Emphasis is placed on the theoretical trends that dominate rhetorical thinking during both periods—especially in Great Britain. Authors include Wilson, Sherry, Rainolde, Day, Hyperius, Cox, Ramus, Talon, Bacon, Pascal, Fenelon, Sheridan, Campbell, Blair, and Whately.

COMM 453 The Power of Discourse In American Life (3 credits)
The potential of language forms and strategic discourse to create, perpetuate, and alter patterns of political and cultural behavior. The influence of contemporary political and cultural discourse on public understanding, public policy, and day-to-day life.
The following course is taken by a few of our graduate students seeking positions as speechwriters after completion of their degrees.

COMM 455 Speechwriting (3 credits)
The study of message strategies in order to research and develop effective speech texts appropriate to speakers and their audiences in various public contexts.
July 5, 2013

Professor William Cohen, Chair  
Professor Ralph Bauer, Director of Graduate Studies  
Professor Jane Donawerth, Director of Writing Programs  
Department of English  
2119 Tawes Hall  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Bill, Ralph, and Jane:

The Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership (TLPL) is pleased to support the proposal for revision of the M.A. in English with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition. Since that M.A. track already allows one elective from another department at 400-level or above, the changes in curriculum will not unduly impact our enrollments.

We have welcomed English M.A. and Ph.D. students in the past in our classes, such as EDCI 467: Teaching Writing, EDCI 673: Assessing, Diagnosing, and Teaching Writing (on campus), and EDCI 745: Theory and Research in Written Communication. We will continue to welcome them.

Sincerely,

Francine H. Hultgren  
Professor and Chair

Attachment
July 23, 2013

Professor Jane Donawerth, Director of Writing Programs  
Associate Professor Vesela Vessela Vessela Vessela
Department of English  
2119 Tawes Hall  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Professors Donawerth and Vessela Vessela Vessela:

The College of Information Studies, Maryland’s iSchool, is pleased to support the proposal for revision of the M.A. in English with a Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition. We do not believe that the proposed changes in curriculum will significantly impact our enrollments.

We will be pleased to have graduate students from the Department of English enroll in courses in the iSchool on a space available basis with the permission of the instructor. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal and wish the department much success in implementing the changes.

Best wishes,

Ann Carlson Weeks, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Academic Programs  
College of Information Studies