# http://www.ric.edu/webcommunications/images/SealWithText_Small_Black.pnggraduate COMMITTEE curriculum PROPOSAL FORM

## Cover page Scroll over blue text to see further [instructions](#instructions)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A.1. [Course or program](#Proposal) | **MA in english** | | | | |  |
| [Replacing](#Ifapplicable) |  | | | | |  |
| A.2. [Proposal type](#type) | **Program:** [**revision**](#revision) | | | | |  |
| A.3. [Originator](#Originator) | **Magdalena Ostas** | | [Home department](#home_dept) | | **English** | |
| A.4. [Rationale](#Rationale)/Context | **The purpose of this proposal is to replace the GRE admissions requirement for the MA in English (Literature) with a writing sample requirement and to remove the GRE requirement for admission to the Creative Writing MA concentration (which already has a writing sample requirement in place).**  **The discipline-specific requirement of a sample of written work to an MA program in English Literature is the standard at regional peer institutions, most of which do not require the GRE general exam for admission (for example, Bridgewater State University, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Boston, and the URI MA Program in English). Requiring the GRE exam puts RIC at a significant disadvantage for recruitment, places an undue financial burden on our applicants, and makes us an unnecessary outlier in our field.**    **We propose requiring applicants to the MA in English to submit the standard substantive document in our field: a 7-10 page writing sample that demonstrates the candidate’s abilities in reading, research, and critical thinking about literary texts. Such a document gives the English graduate admissions committee significant and meaningful information about an applicant, his or her abilities and experience, and his or her ability to complete our MA program. The GRE is an exam that historically has rarely given the admissions committee information relevant to our professional field and academic discipline.** | | | | | |
| A.5. [Student impact](#student_impact) | **Qualified applicants will submit a 7-10 page writing sample instead of GRE scores in order to apply for admission to the MA Program in English. Applicants to the MA Program in English with a concentration in Creative Writing will no longer be required to submit GRE scores along with a writing sample or written portfolio. All candidates to both programs will thus meet the following admissions requirements: 3.0 GPA in English coursework (BA or 24 upper-division credit hours), three letters of recommendation (at least two from English professors), official transcripts, writing sample, statement of intent, and application form and fee.** | | | | | |
| A.6. Impact on other programs |  | | | | | |
| A.7. [Resource impact](#Resource) | *[Faculty PT & FT](#faculty" \o "Need to hire new full-time or part-time faculty? This is where you indicate if this proposal will be affecting FLH in your department/program.)*: |  | | | | |
|  | [*Library*:](#library) |  | | | | |
|  | [*Technology*](#technology) |  | | | | |
|  | [*Facilities*](#facilities): |  | | | | |
|  | Promotion/ Marketing needs |  | | | | |
| A.8. [Semester effective](#Semester_effective) | **Fall 2019** | A.9. Rationale if sooner than next fall | |  | | |

### C. [Program Proposals](#program_proposals)

|  | [Old (for revisions only)](#old_program) | New/revised |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C.1. [Enrollments](#enrollments) |  |  |
| C.2. [Admission requirements](#admissions) | **MA IN ENGLSH**  1. A completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.  2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.  3. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in 24 credit hours of upper-level courses in English language and literature.  4. An official report of scores on the Graduate Record Examination.  5. Three letters of recommendation, with at least two from English professors.  6. A 1-2 page statement of intent outlining your goals for the program and your relevant background.  7. A plan of study approved by the advisor and appropriate dean.  **MA IN ENGLISH WITH A CONCENTRATON IN CREATIVE WRITING**  1. A completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.  2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.  3. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in 24 credit hours of upper-level courses in English language and literature.  4. An official report of scores on the Graduate Record Examination.  5. Three letters of recommendation, with at least two from English professors.  6. A 1-2 page statement of intent outlining your area of writing interest, your goals for the program, and your relevant background.  7. A writing sample in your primary genre: 10-15 pages of poetry, or 15-30 pages of prose (literary fiction or literary nonfiction).  8. A plan of study approved by the advisor and appropriate dean. | **MA IN ENGLSH**  1. A completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.  2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.  3. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in 24 credit hours of upper-level courses in English language and literature.  4. Three letters of recommendation, with at least two from English professors.  5. A 1-2 page statement of intent outlining the candidate’s goals for the program and relevant background.  6. A 7-10 page writing sample that demonstrates the candidate’s abilities in reading, research, and critical thinking about literary texts.  7. A plan of study approved by the advisor and appropriate dean.  **MA IN ENGLISH WITH A CONCENTRATON IN CREATIVE WRITING**  1. A completed application form accompanied by a $50 nonrefundable application fee.  2. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.  3. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale in 24 credit hours of upper-level courses in English language and literature.  4. Three letters of recommendation, with at least two from English professors.  5. A 1-2 page statement of intent outlining your area of writing interest, your goals for the program, and your relevant background.  6. A writing sample in your primary genre: 10-15 pages of poetry, or 15-30 pages of prose (literary fiction or literary nonfiction).  7. A plan of study approved by the advisor and appropriate dean. |
| C.3. [Retention requirements](#retention) |  |  |
| C.4. [Course requirements](#course_reqs) for each program option |  |  |
| C.5. [Credit count](#credit_count) for each program option |  |  |
| C.6. Requirement for thesis, project, or comprehensive exam |  |  |
| C.7. Other changes if any |  |  |

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| **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING THE CATALOG COPY**: The proposal must include all relevant pages from the college catalog, and must show how the catalog will be revised. (1) Go to the “Forms and Information” page on the Graduate Committee website. Scroll down until you see the Word files for the current catalog. (2) Download ALL catalog sections relevant for this proposal, including course descriptions and/or other affected programs. (3) Place ALL relevant catalog copy into a single file. Put page breaks between sections and delete any catalog pages not relevant for this proposal. (4) Using the track changes function, revise the catalog pages to demonstrate what the information should look like in next year’s catalog. (5) Check the revised catalog pages against the proposal form, especially making sure that program totals are correct if adding/deleting course credits. |

## D. Signatures

* Changes that directly impact more than one department/program MUST have the signatures of all relevant department chairs, program directors, and relevant dean (e.g. when creating/revising a program using courses from other departments/programs).
* Proposals that do not have appropriate approval signatures will not be considered.
* Type in name of person signing and their position/affiliation.
* Send electronic files of this proposal and accompanying catalog copy to [graduatecommittee@ric.edu](mailto:graduatecommittee@ric.edu) and a printed or electronic signature copy of this form to the current Chair of Graduate Committee. Check Graduate Committee website for due dates.

##### D.1. Approvals: required from programs/departments/deans who originate the proposal. may include multiple departments, e.g., for joint/interdisciplinary prposals.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#_Signature" \o "Insert electronic signature, if available, in this column) | Date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Magdalena Ostas | Director, Graduate Programs in English |  |  |
| Daniel Scott | Chair of English |  |  |
| Earl Simson | Dean of Arts &Sciences |  |  |

##### D.2. [Acknowledgements](#acknowledge): REQUIRED from OTHER PROGRAMS/DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSAL. SIGNATURE DOES NOT INDICATE APPROVAL, ONLY AWARENESS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED. List all other programs and departments affected by this proposal. Signatures from these departments are required in the signature section. CONCERNS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE GRADUATE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION.

| Name | Position/affiliation | [Signature](#Signature_2) | Date |
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