

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HUMANITIES: ENGLISH

Director

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English faculty who are members of the doctoral faculty.

Overview

The Humanities Ph.D. offers students the opportunity to engage in coursework and collaborate with faculty to write a dissertation that integrates various methods (which may include digital methods for portfolio creation) with research in the Humanities, with a primary discipline in English or History and a secondary discipline in English, History, Digital and Public Humanities, or General Humanities.

This degree program is designed to prepare students for careers in the academy and several other sectors by combining traditional academic training with applied research experience in the Humanities. This will equip them to bring Humanities content to broad public audiences using traditional and/or digital tools.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from this program will:

- Demonstrate a thorough degree of knowledge in the discipline
- Demonstrate an ability to use proper investigation techniques for the discipline
- Use oral and written forms of communication to convey their ideas

Residence requirements: Ph.D. students must satisfy the doctoral residency requirement by satisfactory completion of at least 18 credits in no more than 24 consecutive months. When satisfying the residency requirement, all Ph.D. students are subject to the following restrictions:

- The doctoral residency requirement must be satisfied no later than the end of the semester in which the student completes his or her comprehensive examinations.
- Students must achieve a cumulative graduate grade-point average of at least 3.0 in all courses counted toward satisfying the residency requirement.

Plan of Study: Students should be aware that on their overall Plan of Study, only two (2) courses may be drawn from the 300-/400-level, and only with the prior approval of their advisor.

Rules concerning graduate students taking undergraduate courses can be found on the Graduate Course Designations catalog page (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/general-graduate-academic-regulations-information/general-graduate-academic-regulations/course-and-grading-policies/graduate-course-designations/>).

Admission Requirements

Application Deadline: December 15

- Admission is normally for the Fall Semester.
- Applicants should speak with a potential faculty sponsor in the English department before applying and identify them during the application process. Please initiate contact by the November preceding your application date.
- Applicants are expected to have the M.A. in English or equivalent coursework as determined by the English Department's doctoral committee.
- Applicants must demonstrate facility in a foreign language relevant to study in English. The language requirement will ordinarily be met by two years of satisfactory college-level language study. Students may be required to demonstrate additional language skills to undertake or complete their dissertations. In cases where an applicant has not yet met the foreign language requirement, provisional admission may be recommended.

Application

In addition to the above criteria, the committee considers the applicant's writing sample, letters of recommendation, research statement, potential sponsor form, and the overall viability of the applicant's proposed dissertation project.

- **Writing Sample:** a sample of academic prose with a research component that demonstrates the applicant's ability to undertake graduate course work in English and to engage in a scholarly conversation, preferably on a subject closely related to the applicant's proposed doctoral studies.
- **Research Statement:** a personal statement that explains your motivation for the Ph.D. degree and outlines your research aims. Please consult with the director of the Ph.D. in Humanities: English program for advice on the preparation of the Research Statement.

- Letters of Recommendation: submitted by three individuals who are academically or professionally qualified to assess the applicant's ability to pursue doctoral work. References submitted to the School of Graduate Studies for admission to doctoral studies may be judged by the English department doctoral committee as sufficient evaluation, but the department reserves the right to request further information.

All coursework in both the primary and secondary discipline must be approved prior to registration by the student's committee chair.

Primary Discipline in English

Code	Title	Credits
Take one of the following courses:		3
ENGLISH 5500	Graduate Study In English	
ENGLISH 5519	Teaching Writing: Theories, Histories, Contexts, Practices	
ENGLISH 5547	Theory and Criticism in English Studies	
Take elective courses in ENGLISH at the 5400- or 5500-level		12

Secondary Discipline in Humanities Field

Code	Title	Credits
A minimum of 9 credit hours in coursework. Students with a primary discipline of English may select one of the following secondary disciplines: History, Digital and Public Humanities, or General Humanities.		9

Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation Hours

Code	Title	Credits
ENGLISH 5691	Doctoral Research In Selected Fields	3
ENGLISH 5699	Research And Dissertation	12

Total Credit Hours: 39

Secondary Discipline Coursework

History

Students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours in HISTORY and have a member of the History Department graduate or doctoral faculty on their advisory committee. It is recommended that students include HISTORY 5581 in their plan of study. Coursework can include any graduate-level HISTORY class (5400- or 5500-level), or 300-/400-level courses with previous approval by their advisor.

Digital and Public Humanities (DPH)

Students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours in DPH coursework and have a DPH graduate or doctoral faculty member on their advisory committee.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Course ¹		3
HISTORY 5579 or ENGLISH 5477DH	Public History: Theory and Method Studies in Digital Humanities	3
Two electives:		6
ENGLISH 5477DH	Studies in Digital Humanities	
ENGLISH 5530	Technical Communication	
ENGLISH 5541	Girls, Literacies, and Print Culture	
ENGLISH 5533	Histories Of Writing, Reading, And Publishing	
ENGLISH 5549A	Publication Practicum	
ENGLISH 5549B	Publication Practicum	
ENGLISH 5549C	Publication Practicum	
HISTORY 5521	Oral History	
HISTORY 5579	Public History: Theory and Method	
HISTORY 5591	Archival Methods	
HISTORY 5593	Museum Studies	
HISTORY 5594	Public History and New Media	
ART-HIST 5580	Art Museums: History and Practice	

ART-HIST 5573	Visual Arts Administration
UPD 5743	Introduction to Historic Preservation

¹ If the student has already taken one of these courses as an MA student, they can replace it with another course from the list of electives below in consultation with their DPH committee member.

General Humanities

Students must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours. Students who select General Humanities may select courses from any Humanities-related field. Coursework can include any graduate-level class (5400- or 5500-level), or 300-/400-level courses with previous approval by their advisor.

Recommended Humanities-related fields:

- Anthropology (ANTHRO)
- Art History (ART-HIST)
- Economics (ECON)
- English (for students with History as their primary discipline) (ENGLISH)
- Film (FILM)
- History (for students with English as their primary discipline) (HISTORY)
- Law (LAW)
- Philosophy (PHILOS)
- Political Science (POL-SCI)
- Race, Ethnic and Gender Studies (REGS)
- Sociology (SOCIOL)
- Theatre (THEATRE)
- Urban Studies (UPD, URBAN ST)
- World Languages and Cultures (FRENCH, FRN-LNG, GERMAN, SPANISH)

Comprehensive Written Examination

Before advancing to Ph.D. candidacy, students whose primary discipline is English will take comprehensive written examinations over two designated areas in English studies. They will also participate in an oral exam over the dissertation prospectus.

The examinations must be taken within a year of completing coursework. Prior to taking exams, students must have a supervisory committee, an approved Plan of Study on file with the School of Graduate Studies, and have completed all required coursework. See Comprehensive Examination guidelines (<http://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/minimum-interdisciplinary-phd-academic-regulations-degree-requirements/#Comprehensive%20Examination>) from the School of Graduate Studies for full details.

At least six months before taking comprehensive written exams, the student will submit a tentative reading list of primary and critical works for each written exam area. The supervisory committee will then review and approve the proposed reading list, addressing any oversights or imbalances.

Areas for the comprehensive written examination will be designated at the time of the submission of the Plan of Study. These may be changed only with the consent of the supervisory committee. The examination is designed to test the breadth of the candidate's knowledge in two areas of English studies whether periods of literary history (e.g., British 19th century, American literature from 1865, British and American literature since 1945) or other areas of expertise (e.g., book history, rhetoric, genre studies, literacy studies).

For students whose primary discipline is English, the examining committee must include at least two members of the graduate faculty in English. Each part of the comprehensive written examination receives equal weight. The format of these examinations, designed in consultation with the student to reflect a sustained preparation (typically three to six months), will include a "take-home" component written over a 72-hour period.

Minimum Academic Regulations governing the Comprehensive Examinations can be found on the Minimum Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Academic Regulations and Degree Requirements catalog page (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/minimum-interdisciplinary-phd-academic-regulations-degree-requirements/#Comprehensive%20Examination>).

Oral Examination

The oral examination will evaluate the student's command of methodology and current scholarship as well as primary sources and standard scholarly works in the field and assess the student's ability to integrate content, theory, and/or methods in the discipline of English. At least two weeks before the oral examination, the student will submit a dissertation prospectus detailing chapters, methodology, and bibliography. The exam is typically administered in a single 120-minute sitting and is intended to prepare the student to begin writing the dissertation.

Doctoral Dissertation Requirement

The dissertation defense will be a one and a half hour discussion of the dissertation that includes all members of the Supervisory Committee. The majority of the committee must vote for approval of the dissertation in order for the student to graduate. See the School of Graduate Studies guidelines for further procedures and deadlines. Minimum Academic Regulations governing the dissertation can be found Minimum Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Academic Regulations and Degree Requirements catalog page (<https://catalog.umkc.edu/colleges-schools/graduate-studies/minimum-interdisciplinary-phd-academic-regulations-degree-requirements/#Comprehensive%20Examination>).