

Department of English
Office of Graduate Studies

Capstone Project Approval Form:
English 7399, 7699, 6304, 6325, or 7396

Student's Name [please type] _____

I have arranged with [insert faculty name] _____

to take ENGL [insert course number] _____ during [insert semester and year] _____

Description of Project [please include the type of project—e.g., MA essay, Teaching Practicum, or something else—the intended written component, and the frequency of meeting with faculty advisor]

Signature of Student _____

Signature of Instructor _____

Signature of MA Faculty Advisor _____

What is a Capstone Project?

Students enrolled in the MA program are required to complete their degree with a Capstone Project, usually undertaken toward the end of their programs. The Capstone Project offers students the opportunity to conduct a substantive research project that builds on formal coursework or undertake a professional project that advances their career goals. Questions about the Capstone Project may be directed to the MA Faculty Advisor.

Capstone Projects may take the following forms (or others to be jointly designed by a student and professor in consultation with the MA Faculty Advisor):

- ENGL 7399: A Master's Essay of 5,000-10,000 words that could be submitted to a journal for publication and/or serve as a writing sample for a PhD program application.
- ENGL 6325: A Teaching Practicum in the Teaching of English. This option could involve in-class practices and pedagogies (assuming MA students themselves are English-Language Arts teachers) in addition to a written component: a research paper, a pedagogy paper, a course portfolio, a conference paper, a pedagogy manual, or something similar.
- ENGL 6304: A Teaching Practicum in the Teaching of English as an Additional Language (TEAL). For examples, see ENGL 6325 (above).
- ENGL 7396: Research Trip or Study Abroad, independent travel or group trip when available (for example, to study at the British Library in London or the Library of Congress in Washington, DC). The research trip would involve archival and/or primary text research at the library in question and a final paper or project that incorporates findings.

As a substantial requirement for the degree, the Capstone Project comprises six hours of the total thirty hours. Although Capstone Projects involve a significant level of independent work by the student, faculty contact time should reflect the required six hours. Capstone hours may be divided into three hours for each of two concluding semesters or students may register for all six hours in the same semester.

Here are some examples:

- For a Master's Essay, three of the six hours might involve faculty supervision of Reading-and-Research hours with students. Students, for instance, might be required to meet with faculty members every other week and give brief presentations on secondary scholarship for the MA Essay. The second three hours might involve faculty help with developing a viable research problem and commenting on several distinct drafts of the MA essay.
- For a Teaching Practicum, three of the six hours might involve meetings during which students and faculty discuss the practices and pedagogies that MA students are undertaking in their own secondary classrooms. The second three hours might involve faculty help with the required written component (see ENGL 6325, above), including commentary on several drafts.