



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR M.A. IN ENGLISH

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Mission/Scope Statement: The primary mission of the graduate program in English is to provide high quality instruction in literature and composition.

Goal Statements: Within its Mission, Role, and Scope, the WORKING GOALS of S.L.U.'s graduate English program are: to develop and maintain quality educational programs, to create a positive environment, and to uphold standards of competency that enable students to acquire a broad knowledge of literature and the ability to relate individual literary texts to one another and to broader intellectual movements.

KNOWLEDGE

Graduates of the M.A. program should have adequate knowledge of a broad range of literary texts in American, English, and World literatures.

SKILLS

Graduates should be able to write a clear, focused, developed, and organized essay that is stylistically appropriate to the discussion of broad topics of literary texts and periods.

ATTITUDES

Graduates should express satisfaction with the quality of instruction and the overall learning environment provided by the Department of English and its graduate faculty.

Means of Assessment:

KNOWLEDGE

Graduates must score a passing grade on the Comprehensive Essay Exam (four hours), which is based upon a reading list of thirty literary texts representative of a broad spectrum of English, American, and World literature.

SKILLS

Graduates are evaluated on their ability to write the essay portion of the Comprehensive Exam, requiring three essay questions to be answered in the space of four hours. Each answer is expected to be fashioned

into a focused, cohesive, and developed essay.

ATTITUDES

Graduates are surveyed one year after their completion of the M.A. degree and asked if they were satisfied with the M.A. program and if they have any suggestions for improvement.