6. Change in Curriculum

**College of Liberal Arts**
Department of English
B.A. in English
Literature Track
Creating Writing Track
Rhetoric Track
MEMORANDUM

TO: University Curriculum Committee
   Attn: Ms. Linda Lacey, Director
         Academic Support Services

THROUGH: Dr. Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean
          College of Liberal Arts

THROUGH: Dr. Paul Parrish, Head
          Department of English

FROM: Dr. Claude Gibson, Director
      Undergraduate Studies in English

SUBJECT: Reduction of Hours for the BA in English from 128 to 120

The Department of English wishes to bring the BA in English for the literature, creative writing and rhetoric tracks to 120 hours. It will accomplish the reduction from its current 128-hour total to 120 by eliminating the “Allied requirements” component of 9 hours and by adding 1 hour to general electives. The attached photocopy of the BA in English requirements from pages 448-49 of the Texas A&M University Undergraduate Catalog, Edition 129, shows the changes intended. “Allied Requirements” for the rhetoric track require 6 hours of linguistics and three hours of communication rather than the three hours of linguistics and six hours of history that the literature and creative writing tracks do.

Confirmation that the Department of History and Department of Communication have been informed of the changes and raise no objection is also attached.

This proposal has been approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Executive Committee of the Department of English, as well as the Undergraduate Instruction Committee and Liberal Arts Council of the College of Liberal Arts.

This proposal excludes only one plan in the Undergraduate Program in English, the BA in English with Middle School Certification.

Attachments: (3)
Requirements

English. 33 credits in English can be applied to the degree; at least 21 credits must be in literature. A grade of C or higher is required for a course to be counted in the major.

All majors must take the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 104 Composition and Rhetoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 203, 210, 235, 236, 241, 301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 231 Survey of English Literature I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All majors must take courses in the following categories:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>From ENGL 227 American Literature: Colonial to American Renaissance, ENGL 228 American Literature: Civil War to Present, ENGL 232 Survey of English Literature II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>From 300-level courses, in consultation with an advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>From ENGL 412, 414, 415, 431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 481 Senior Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>English elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In selecting these courses, majors should be certain that they have at least two courses in British literature, one of which must cover material prior to 1800 and at least one from 1800 to 1900. At least two courses must be in American literature. One course must be Shakespeare. Majors must complete one course formally designated as writing intensive.

Allied requirements. All majors must take the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>LING 209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>HIST 213, 435, 436, or 437 and 214, 438, or 439 (Students may substitute an alternative allied course in the humanities with the permission of an advisor.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

College and University Requirements. The following lists incorporate University Core Curriculum requirements. No course can be counted in more than one category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 104 Composition and Rhetoric (fulfilled by major requirements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Communication (3 hours): One course chosen from: ENGL 203, 210, 235, 236, 241 or 301; COMM 203 or 243.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Literature in English (6 hours): To be selected from ENGL 203 (unless 203 is used to satisfy the communication requirement), 212, 221, 222, 227, 228, 231, 232, or courses for which one of these listed courses is a prerequisite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Foreign Language (14 hours or equivalent): Four-course sequence in French, German, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Greek, or Latin unless permission is received from the department head to substitute work in another language. This will not satisfy the college humanities and visual and performing arts requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>At least 3 hours must be in MATH (excluding 102, 103, 104, 130, 150, 365, 366). Three hours may be in logic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Literature Track

Over 85 percent of our English majors pursue the Literature Track. Students seeking certification at the secondary level generally employ the Literature Track as the foundation for their degrees. This track provides students with over 30 hours of intensive study in English language and literature courses, including ENGL 231—Survey of English Literature to 1800; ENGL 412—Studies in Shakespeare; and ENGL 481—Senior Seminar on a significant figure, movement, or issue in literature or rhetoric.

The Creative Writing Track

English majors who wish to focus their efforts in creative writing will follow the usual major requirements, but will take 9 hours of courses in creative writing (fiction, poetry or drama) for their English electives, selecting either a prose sequence (ENGL 235, 345, 347) or a poetry sequence (ENGL 236, 346, 348). Students will complete a creative writing project (ENGL 485 or 497) or, with permission, an ENGL 481, Senior Seminar.

The Rhetoric Track

English majors who wish to concentrate their studies on the theory and practice of written communication may take the rhetoric track, by completing 15 hours of coursework in writing and rhetoric including ENGL 353, 354, 355, 12 hours of literature electives, and a senior seminar. Selections will be made in consultation with an English advisor or the Writing Programs Office.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Richard L. Street, Jr., Head Department of Communication

THROUGH: Dr. Paul Parrish, Head Department of English

FROM: Dr. Claude Gibson, Director Undergraduate Studies in English

DATE: 17 October 2006

SUBJECT: Meeting the 120-Hour Mandate for the BA in English

Finding no “compelling” reason not to meet the mandate of the state legislature for a 120-hour degree, the Department of English proposes dropping its 9-hour “Allied requirement” (see attachments of TAMU Catalog and of the specific track) from the current 128 hours and adding 1 hour to general electives. This action will allow the Department of English to serve its healthy number of double majors and minors—something that reducing the elective requirement in the degree to 21 hours would discourage. The rhetoric track for our BA in English, enrolling 135 students, has an alternative to the two histories required for the literature and creative writing tracks—an extra linguistics course and one of the following: COMM 203, 301, or 305. These will no longer be required.

Let me assure you that the Department of English appreciates the quality of the Communication offerings made available to our students over the years. We expect a continued high interest by our majors.

Unless there are concerns, I would appreciate your signing immediately below and returning the memo so it may be attached to our request that will be sent through the University committees.

Attachments (2)

Approved:

Dr. Richard L. Street, Jr.
October 11, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO:          Claude Gibson  
            Director, Undergraduate Studies in English

FROM:        Walter L. Buenger
            Professor & Head of Department

SUBJECT:     Meeting the 120-hour Mandate for the BA in English

I have received your memorandum of September 19, 2006 in which you state your department will delete your previous requirement that English majors take six hours of history. This will allow your majors to obtain a degree with 120 hours. While it is impossible to predict the impact on enrollments in history this action may have, I understand your reasons for this change and approve it. The Department of History will plan accordingly, but looks forward to a continued close association with your majors.

xc:          Paul Parish
            David Vaught