Program Proposal
Form B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Group (College): Arts &amp; Letters</th>
<th>Date of Submission to College Dean: 3/2/2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Organization (Department): English</td>
<td>Requested Effective: Fall 2010, Spring 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Chair: Sheree L. Meyer</td>
<td>Contact if not Department Chair:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of the Program (Please be specific; indicate minor, undergraduate or graduate degree, etc.): M.A. in English</td>
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Type of Program Proposal:

- [X] Modification in Existing Program:
  - [X] Substantive Change
  - [ ] Non-Substantive Change
  - [ ] Deletion of Existing Program

- [ ] New Programs
  - [ ] Initiation (Projection) of New Program on to Master Plan
  - [ ] New Degree Programs
    - [ ] Regular Process
    - [ ] Fast Track Process
    - [ ] Pilot Process
  - [ ] New Minor, Concentration, Option, Specialization, Emphasis
  - [ ] New Certificate Program

PLEASE NOTE: Form B is to be used only as a Cover Form. Additional information is requested for each of the above as noted in the corresponding procedure in the Policies and Procedures for Initiation, Modification, Review and Approval of Courses and Academic Programs found at http://www.csus.edu/umanual/acad.htm
Briefly describe the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification. This is a proposal for new graduate admission requirements for the MA in English (concentrations in Literature, Creative Writing and Composition, for all three plans: The Thesis Program; the Master’s Project; and the Comprehensive Exam.) We are also changing our procedures to facilitate a timely and effective assessment of the applicant’s materials. The changes to the requirements are in response primarily to two impulses: 1) recognition that a 3.0 GPA in Upper Division English course work is too low given the fact that the average GPA for Upper Division English is 3.1; a 3.0 GPA in upper division, undergraduate work, therefore, does not accurately predict the ability to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in graduate work. Higher standards, therefore, more accurately reflect the quality of work expected at the graduate level. 2) Current admissions requirements of specific course work were predicated on an older model of the Sacramento State University BA in English. These requirements no longer reflect the undergraduate major. Furthermore, in the interest of attracting students from outside Sacramento State, we have made the course requirements less specific in recognition of the wide variety of English majors in universities across the country. The new requirements, while still requiring a strong general preparation in undergraduate English coursework (30 units), reflect a less prescriptive model of that coursework. This proposal is for the MA in English only and does not affect the TESOL MA which has its own requirements.

Current Requirements

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in English requires:
• a baccalaureate degree;
• 24 upper division units in English;
• graduate admission will require a 30-unit core of the undergraduate major (except for TESOL MA Concentration students) with a 3.0 GPA in all upper division courses.

Specific course requirements to be determined by the Graduate Committee:
• a minimum GPA of 2.75 in the last 60 units and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in upper division English courses;
• a “B” or better in ENGL 120A;
• (for foreign students from non-English speaking countries) a TOEFL score of 600 or higher (or a score of 250 or higher on the Computerized TOEFL) and a score of 5 on the Test of Written English; and
• (for students applying to the creative writing program) a small but representative sample of the student’s creative writing work.

None of the prerequisite units may be applied toward the graduate degree. The Graduate Coordinator will screen all applicants according to these prerequisites. Applicants who have deficiencies in these admission requirements which can be removed by specified additional preparation may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response from the Graduate Coordinator to the student’s admission application.

Proposed Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in English requires:

For: Concentrations in Literature, Composition and Creative Writing
• a baccalaureate degree;
• a minimum GPA of 2.75 in the last 60 units and a minimum GPA of 3.3 in upper division English courses;
• graduate admission will require a 30-unit core of upper division courses in English with a 3.3 GPA in all upper division courses.
• (for foreign students from non-English speaking countries) a TOEFL score of 600 or higher (or a score of 250 or higher on the Computerized TOEFL) and a score of 5 on the Test of Written English; and

For: Concentrations in Literature and Creative Writing
Included in the 30 units of upper division coursework in English, there must be:
• One upper division course dealing with British Literature and One upper division course dealing with American Literature
• A minimum of four additional upper division literature courses (any area)
• (for students applying to the creative writing program) a small but representative sample of the student’s
Additional Materials Required & Considered:

- Personal statement of no more than 300-500 words. (Students applying to Literature, Creative Writing, or Composition must clearly indicate somewhere in their personal statements which concentration they are pursuing.)

- Three confidentially submitted recommendation forms for all students (both CSUS and other institutions). Students graduating from universities other than CSUS must also provide formal letters from their three recommenders.

- Writing sample for Creative Writing applicants

- Students must send complete transcripts, letters of reference, and copy of application to both English Grad Coordinator as well as Graduate Studies Office by application deadline.

The Graduate Coordinator will screen all applicants according to these requirements and a ranking system devised by the department. Applicants who have deficiencies in these admission requirements which can be removed by specified additional preparation will be ranked accordingly but may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response from the Graduate Coordinator to the student’s admission application.

Approvals:

Department Chair:

College Dean:

University Committee:

Associate Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs:

Date: 3/24/2010

Date: 4/12/10

Date:

Date:

09/10/2008