

- A. demonstrate a foundational knowledge of literary/rhetorical histories, aesthetics, cultures, and emerging areas of inquiry, including an awareness of cultural diversity within literary traditions

Direct Assessment: This knowledge is learned throughout the student's program of study and will be directly assessed through a review of the M.A. oral examination that each candidate takes at the conclusion of his/her degree program.

Indirect Assessment: Each student's knowledge base will be indirectly assessed through annual faculty reporting on the wide historical array of course work the student takes during master's study, especially that in 6000-level seminars, as well as through relevant data from graduate course evaluations.

Direct Assessment: During the M.A. oral examination which culminates the degree, each student will demonstrate his/her relative competence by discussing a wide range of faculty-approved core texts (historical, national, critical, and theoretical, with a grounding in diversity issues). Students will examine assigned primary texts within their critical and theoretical contexts in response to questions from an examining committee of three faculty, who will complete a departmental rating form expressly prepared for the purpose of assessing each student's level of demonstrated knowledge.

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- B. demonstrate knowledge of research expectations, and of theoretical approaches, requisite for advanced study in English, including appropriate research resources and tools

Direct Assessments: This knowledge is learned throughout the student's program of study and will be directly assessed (1) through review of a portfolio which each M.A. candidate will present at the conclusion of course work but prior to taking the M.A. oral examination that includes a current *curriculum vitae*, what the candidate regards as the strongest research paper s/he has produced during course work, and the annotated bibliographies the student produced as a requirement in ENGL 5000 and ENGL 5110, and (2) through a review of the student's performance with respect to Learning Objective B on the M.A. oral examination which each student takes at the conclusion of his/her degree program.

Indirect Assessment: Each student's knowledge base with respect to Learning Objective B will be indirectly assessed through annual faculty reporting on the wide historical array of course work the student takes during master's study, especially that in ENGL 5000 (Methods of Research), ENGL 5110 (Literary Theory), and 6000-level seminars

- 3. The program assessment plan should be developed and approved by all faculty in the department. In addition, the program assessment plan should be developed to include student input and external sources (e.g., national standards, advisory boards, employers, alumni, etc.)**