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For a 1969 report on graduate programs in English, the Association of Departments of English obtained information from chairmen or directors of graduate study in English at 223 institutions. This document contains some of the information collected for the full report (available through ERIC as "Graduate Programs in English: A 1969 Report" by Bonnie E. Nelson). The handbook for students at the University of British Columbia contains information on prerequisites, admission, and requirements for the masters and doctoral degrees. A Masters Reading List comprises the appendix. (BN)

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A HANDBOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

REVISED MAY 1967

TE 500 571

FOREWORD

The information in this document was collected by The Association of Departments of English for a report on graduate programs in English. For the full report which is available through the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), see Graduate Programs in English and American Literature: A 1969 Report by Bonnie E. Nelson. Other companion reports, containing some of the information on which the full report is based, are also available through ERIC. See:

- (1) A Proposal for the Establishment of an English Ph.D. Program Beginning 1970-1971 at the University of Idaho, Moscow.
- (2) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of Miami, Oxford, and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
- (3) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Teachers College (Columbia), Duke University, and Princeton University.
- (4) Description of the Graduate Program in English at the University of Iowa.
- (5) Descriptions of Recently Revised Graduate Programs in English at Indiana University (Bloomington), New York University, and the University of South Carolina.
- (6) Future Ph.D. Programs in English at Boston College and Memphis State University.
- (7) Graduate Programs in English at Marquette University, and the University of Michigan--Bulletins for Graduate Students.
- (8) A Handbook for Graduate Students at the University of British Columbia.
- (9) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Cincinnati.
- (10) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Illinois, Urbana.
- (11) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Illinois State University, and DePauw University.
- (12) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Tennessee.
- (13) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Texas Technological College and the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Department of English

A HANDBOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Revised, May, 1967

The University of British Columbia

A HANDBOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Department of English

A HANDBOOK FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

1) All graduate students must familiarize themselves thoroughly with the regulations contained in this handbook and in the Calendar of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

2) All students enrolled in courses, including 549 and 649 (thesis writing), must have their registration forms signed by a member of the Graduate Committee during the normal registration period. It is also the students' responsibility to inform the Graduate Committee of any subsequent changes in their academic programs.

3) An M.A. candidate with full graduate standing who is a non-teaching student will be expected to take his degree in one year.

4) Teaching students will be expected to complete the degree in two years. For first year M.A. students who are teaching, a normal load is three courses. Those who have to satisfy the English 501 requirement are advised to take 501 in addition to three other courses in order to ensure that their second year program, which will probably include thesis and comprehensive examination in addition to course work, will not be unduly onerous.

5) Students are reminded that their file is not complete until they have submitted to the Graduate Committee a recent photograph (passport size).

I. ADMISSION TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Students who wish to be admitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies must apply on the form provided by the Registrar. The application, together with supporting documents, should be submitted by August 1st (March 1st for Ph.D. applicants) of the year in which the student plans to begin his graduate program. All graduate students are advised to submit with other credentials their score in the Graduate Record Examination, if available.

II. PREREQUISITES

Full graduate standing will normally be given to those students who hold a B.A. degree and who have taken at least fifteen units in English beyond the second-year level, providing that at least six units of these fifteen were completed with first-class standing and that the remaining nine were completed with at least second-class standing. Students who do not meet this requirement may, with the approval of the English Department and the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, be admitted provisionally, subject to making up deficiencies by such courses as the Department may specify. For further information, students are referred to the U.B.C. Calendar: Faculty of Graduate Studies.

III. DEGREES OFFERED

The Department of English offers the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Advisors: Graduate students are advised by the directors of their theses. They should choose their advisor and the area of their thesis by the end of the first term of graduate work and submit a completed "Thesis Form" to the Graduate Committee for approval. The Committee will act as advisor to each graduate student until he has chosen or been assigned a director for his thesis.

B. Standing: A graduate student, whether a candidate for the M.A. or Ph.D., is expected to maintain class standings of at least 65% in every course. If he does not do so, the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will normally require him to withdraw. A candidate will not be denied his degree, however, if in not more than one course he has obtained as little as 60%, provided his overall average is at least 65%.

C. Form of theses: All theses will be prepared in accordance with the regulations set down in the brochure entitled Instructions for the Preparation of Graduate Theses. All students should obtain a copy of this brochure from the Registrar and familiarize themselves with its contents. Documentation in theses will follow Edward D. Seeber, A Style Manual for Students Based on the MLA Style Sheet, Indiana University Press, 1964.

D. Teaching Assistantships: Applicants for these positions should return to the Graduate Committee, Department of English, the form inserted at the end of this Handbook.

V. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

A. Residence: The student must spend at least one full winter session in resident graduate study. A candidate for the Master of Arts degree must complete this program within five years after his initial registration. Extension beyond this period requires the approval of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

B. Foreign Language Requirement: For the Master's degree, a student must present course credit at the 200 level, or equivalent standing, for a foreign language. If the student has not taken such a course, he will be required to satisfy this requirement by passing an examination. Applications for Language examinations should be made to the Graduate Committee.

C. Course work: The minimum required number of units for the Master's degree is eighteen.

1. At least six of these units must be taken in English seminars numbered 500 and above. In addition, a student may elect to take a three-unit reading course (English 547) in and around his thesis area, provided that he satisfies all other M.A. requirements. Except by special permission of the Graduate Committee, a provisional student may not take such courses.

2. Three to six units may be taken in related fields outside the department by students without area deficiencies.

3. Normally, credit for the thesis will be three units. Students entering the M.A. program with a first or high second class Honours B.A. or equivalent will be granted six units for the thesis.

4. Every candidate, at the time of completing work for his degree, should have successfully taken a course in the history or analysis of the English language (e.g. English 350 or 309), and a course in bibliography (e.g. English 491 or 501 - the latter carries one unit of credit). He is expected to have a satisfactory knowledge of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, and to have taken at least one course in each of the areas listed below:

(i) English literature	Beginning to 1550
(ii) English literature	1550-1660
(iii) English literature	1660-1830
(iv) English literature	1830-1960
(v) American & Canadian literatures	

Note One: English 350 may be used to satisfy the "history of the language" requirement OR as a course requirement in area 1 - but not both.

Note Two: English 303 and 304 are not allowed graduate credit, but English 304 may be used as one of the five prerequisite courses.

D. Thesis: M.A. candidates must present an acceptable thesis (normally not more than 125 pages); the topic and director should be chosen before the end of the student's first term in full standing. The thesis must be read and approved by an examining committee, usually consisting of three members of the department, who will conduct an oral examination on the completed thesis and its background.

E. Creative Writing: With the approval of the Graduate Committee, a student with high standing may elect to submit a body of creative work for the Master's degree in lieu of an academic thesis. Such a student must obtain at least twelve units of graduate credit in English courses and seminars and satisfy all other requirements of the M.A. (English) program.

F. M.A. Written Examination: Students entering the M.A. program with an average of less than 70% in English 496 and 497 (Honours reading courses) or equivalent will be required to take a three-hour written examination on the major works of English literature listed in the Appendix. The examination will be held twice a year, at dates in October and February to be announced. A pass will normally earn two units of credit.

VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

A. Admission: Generally the requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program are the same as for admission to the Graduate Faculty.

Those with first class honours or its equivalent in their bachelors' degrees may be admitted directly into the Ph.D. program.

A student with at least a high second class bachelor's degree who has completed a successful first graduate year [i.e. twelve units or more] as a Master's candidate, and gives research promise, may be proposed for transfer to the Ph.D. program.

Those with a bachelor's degree, followed by a Master's degree revealing high scholastic and research ability, may be admitted into the Ph.D. program.

Students wishing to be considered for fellowships or teaching assistantships should submit their applications before March 1. Before a student is formally admitted to candidacy by the Department, he will be required to pass the qualifying Candidacy Examination. (See below under I)

B. Residence: Candidates will normally be required to spend a minimum of three winter sessions at the University. However, those possessing a Master's degree (or the equivalent) may have this time reduced by the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. A candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy must complete his program within six years after his initial registration. Extensions beyond this period require the approval of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

C. Special Regulations: The Faculty of Graduate Studies has certain other regulations, procedures, and suggestions for Ph.D. students. Students are advised to read carefully the pertinent section of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar.

D. Preliminary (Diagnostic) Examination: All new Ph.D. students are required to take in the week preceding registration an examination which is designed to test the student's knowledge of literary history and to evaluate his critical ability. This examination is essentially diagnostic, and it is used together with other information in the student's file to assist the advisory committee in planning the Ph.D. course of study.

E. Advisory Conference: Each Ph.D. student will meet with an advisory committee during the week of registration. No student will be allowed to enrol without the approval of this advisory committee. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the student's course of study, including course work, languages, date for the candidacy examination, and tentative thesis area. The Preliminary examination and the Advisory Conference require Ph.D. students to be on campus before registration.

F. Course Work (including graduate seminars, reading courses, Honours essays, and M.A. theses)

i. A minimum of three years of course work in English (i.e. 48 units or 96 semester hours) beyond the second-year level will be required.

At least twelve units must be taken while the student is registered in graduate studies, and nine of these units must be obtained in graduate seminars.

All students must take at least nine units of course work after entering graduate studies at UBC.

ii. The distribution of course work should be as follows:

Group One	- One course in Old English, one in Middle English (including Chaucer)	6 units
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Group Two	- English Literature, 1500-1900 (including a Shakespeare course)	21 units
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Group Three	- One course in North American literature; one in 20th Century British literature	6 units
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Group Four	- Free choice	15 units or more
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G. Foreign Language Requirement: A candidate must have a reading fluency in one foreign language sufficient to enable him to translate critical and primary texts. (The standard will be equivalent to that obtained by a student who had successfully completed French 220 at UBC) A knowledge of additional languages may be required, depending upon the thesis topic.

Reading examinations are given by the classical and modern language departments at specific dates in the Autumn and Spring terms.

H. A knowledge of bibliography and methods of research will be required.

I. The Candidacy Examination: The examination will be composed of three papers:

(i) An examination to test a student's ability to criticize (i.e., evaluate . . . analyze . . . interpret) particular specimens of prose and poetry.

(ii) Special Area paper related to the field of the candidate's dissertation (e.g., "Renaissance and Seventeenth Century English Literature" or "American Literature").

(iii) A third examination, the scope of which will be decided by the candidate's director, the Graduate Committee, and other advisors (e.g., a genre or a period examination). If the Special Area paper is not in Group two (English Literature 1500-1900), the third examination will be based in large part on material selected from that group. The material to be covered will not be greater than that for the Special Area paper.

NOTE: The nature and extent of the materials examined under B and C will be made clear to the student in early interviews with the Graduate Committee and the dissertation adviser.

(iv) A two-hour oral.

J. Thesis: The Doctor's degree is essentially a research degree, and for this reason particular emphasis is placed on the completion of a satisfactory thesis, generally understood to be an independent and original research project which makes a contribution to knowledge in the special area elected by the student. The thesis, prepared under the supervision of the candidate's principal advisor, will be submitted for approval to a committee appointed by the advisor and the Head of the Department.

When the candidate has submitted an acceptable thesis and has had it approved, he may sit the final oral examination on the thesis and its immediate area or backgrounds. This is a formal examination given at a set and publicly announced time.

Appendix:
M.A. Reading List (effective July 1, 1967)

- Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales, Troilus and Criseyde.
- Spenser: Faerie Queene, Bks. 1 and 2.
- Shakespeare: Three tragedies (including King Lear) and three comedies (including Twelfth Night).
- Donne: Songs and Sonnets
- Milton: Lycidas, Paradise Lost, Samson Agonistes.
- Dryden: Essay of Dramatic Poesy
- Congreve: Way of the World
- Swift: Tale of a Tub
- Pope: Essay on Criticism, Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot
- Johnson: Life of Milton
- Doswell: Life of Johnson
- Fielding: Tom Jones
- Wordsworth: Lyrical Ballads, including Preface to second edition.
- Coleridge: Biographia Literaria (ch. 1, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22.)
- Byron: Don Juan, Canto 1
- Tennyson: In Memoriam
- Browning: Pippa Passes
- Arnold: Culture and Anarchy
- Dickens: Bleak House
- Eliot, G.: Middlemarch
- Eliot, T.S.: Waste Land, Four Quartets, the literary criticism in Selected Prose (Peregrine)
- Yeats: Selected Poetry (Macmillan edition)
- Joyce: Ulysses
- Melville: Moby Dick
- Whitman: "Song of Myself," "Out of the Cradle," "Prayer of Columbus," and "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd"
- James: The Ambassadors
- Faulkner: Absalom, Absalom!

APPLICATION FOR A GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (NEW OR RENEWAL)

If you wish to be considered for a Graduate Fellowship for the session 1969-70, please complete the form below and return it before March 1 to:

The Graduate Committee
Department of English
University of British Columbia
Vancouver 8, B. C.

- Notes: (1) Applicants must be admitted into the M.A. or Ph.D. programme in full standing before they are eligible for a graduate fellowship.
- (2) A teaching assistantship and a graduate fellowship may not be held concurrently.
- (3) When applying for admission into a graduate programme, the student should, if possible, ask the director of his M.A. thesis or Honours essay to be a referee.

APPLICATION FOR A GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

_____ New _____ Renewal

NAME:

ADDRESS:

DEGREE SOUGHT:

SIGNATURE:

For the Use of the Committee and Head of the Department

Academic Record:

References:

Remarks: