

Roadmaps for MA Students

The quickest path but without training in teaching (3 semesters):

Fall of year one

English 201(offered only in Fall)	4
Grad Literature course*	4
Grad Literature course	4
Total	12 units

Spring of year one

Grad Literature course	4
Grad Literature course	4
Grad Literature course	4
Total	12 (24 Cumulative) units

Summer – study for MA exam

Fall of year two

Grad Literature course	4
English 297 (offered only in Fall)	2
Take MA Exams (parts 1 & 2)	
Total	6 (30 Cumulative) units

A Slower path but one that includes training to teach college classes (4-6 semesters)

Apply for GA-ship when you apply for admission

Fall of year one

English 201(offered only in Fall)	4
English 259 (offered only in Fall)	4
Act as a GA	
Total	8 units

Spring of year one

Grad Literature course	4
Grad Literature course	4
Continue as a GA & apply for TA-ship for year two	
Total	8 (16 Cumulative) units

Summer – study for MA exam, develop a thesis proposal if you decide to do an MA thesis

Fall of year two

Grad Literature course	4
English 297 (offered only in Fall)	2
TA and Take MA Exams	
Total	6 (22 Cumulative) units

Spring of year two

Grad Literature course	4
Grad Literature course	4
Continue as TA and take any MA Exam not done in Fall	
Total	8 (30 Cumulative) units

Note that enrolled students can TA for up to two years. If you slow this path down to three years, you can have two full years of college-level teaching experience by the time you graduate (not to mention the first year of GA-ship, which should prepare you for the TA-ship). With a lighter course load you can also devote time to developing talks for professional conferences and producing articles for publication. This professional development in turn will make you more attractive as both a PhD applicant and as a potential college teacher.

Some MAs also earn a certificate in Professional and Technical Writing in addition to the MA, thus effectively pursuing two career paths – both teaching and professional writing – at the same time.

- By “Grad Literature course”, we generally mean English 202, 203, 204, 208, 211, 215, 216, 224, 225, 228, 230, 232, 233, 253, 254, 255, 256, or 257, dependent on student choices and what is offered in any particular semester. However, in practice, this may also include one of the MFA workshops, 240, 241, 242, and up to two upper division undergraduate literature courses (100 level) dependent on approval by the MA advisor.