

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE  
FORM C**

**Fields marked with \* are required**

**Name of Initiator:** Gary Harrison      **Email:\*** [garyh@unm.edu](mailto:garyh@unm.edu)      **Date:\*** 03-27-08

**Phone Number:\*** 505 277-3229      Initiator's Rank / Title\*      Professor: English  
Department

Faculty Contact\* Gary Harrison      Administrative Contact\* Ezra Meier, Department of English  
Department\* English

**Division**      **Program**  
**Branch**

**Proposed effective term:**

Semester      Fall ▼      Year      2008 ▼

**Course Information**

Select Appropriate Program      Graduate Degree Program ▼      CIP Code  
Name of New or Existing Program      \* M.A. English -Concentration in Language and Literature  
Catalog Page Number      188      Select Category      Concentration ▼      Degree Type  
Select Action      Revision ▼

**Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.**

See current catalog for format within the respective college (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

[FormC.MARevision.doc](#)

**This Change affects other departmental program/branch campuses**

**Reason(s) for Request**      \* (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

The change in requirements for the Master of Arts in English, Concentration in Language and Literature, requires no new courses or changes in staffing and faculty resources. While keeping in place the current concentration's balance between a set of core courses and distribution electives, the new requirements places greater emphasis upon the MA portfolio. This shift brings the MA Concentration in Language and Literature greater parity and conformity to the MA Concentration in Rhetoric and Writing, placing a high degree of emphasis upon writing in multiple professional genres. This change thus gives our entire MA program more continuity, even as it introduces greater flexibility for students. The portfolio defense preserves the examination component of the older requirements. Perhaps most importantly, the new requirements call for the formation of a Committee on Studies (COS) for our MA students in Language and Literature. Currently, such students do not have a COS, as they are advised solely by the Director of Graduate Studies. Appointing and working with a COS provides closer supervision over the academic work of the MA students, and ensures that specialists in their areas of interest will guide their course selections as well as the development of their portfolios. Thus, with these new requirements (basically a shift in emphasis to a managed and well-structured portfolio that adds a reflective preface demonstrating the student's ability to place his or her work in a professional context) we will have a stronger, more rigorous, while more flexible Master of Arts in English, Concentration in Language and Literature.

**Statements to address budgetary and Faculty Load Implications and Long-range planning**      \* (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

Because the change of requirements is a shift of emphasis rather than a wholesale revision and because the changes require no new courses, there will be no budgetary impact upon the English Department. The Committees on Studies will consist of two faculty members and the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). Currently, the DGS advises students, but calls upon at least two and sometimes three faculty members per student to write and read the MA examinations, and another two or three faculty members to read and evaluate the MA portfolios. The revised requirements will in fact make this process more efficient, thereby using current faculty and staff resources more effectively.