## Academic Program Proposal
### Provost Summary
#### University of Kansas - Lawrence

**Date:** March 2, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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| 1. Program Identification     | **Contact:** Anna Neill  
**Type of Program:** Track  
**Degree Abbreviation, if applicable:** MA  
**CIP Code** (to be completed by OIRP): _______________  
**Primary and Additional Location(s) of Instruction:** Lawrence |
| 2. Academic Unit              | **School:** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
**Department:** English |
| 3. Program Description        | The English BA/MA track will offer our best undergraduate majors the opportunity to earn both a BA and an MA degree in a focused and accelerated manner. Students will begin advanced pre-requisite coursework in their final semesters as an undergraduate and complete their MA within one year of finishing their BA by following a rigorous schedule of courses. Given the rigor and intensity of the program, these students will not be eligible for GTA positions in their MA year.  

**Goals of the BA/MA program include:**  
• To give high-achieving students with a range of career interests an accelerated but rigorous track toward an advanced degree in English;  
• To offer our students more routes or ways to achieve an advanced degree in English; |
| 4. Demand/Need for the Program| The degree has a number of advantages for students with a variety of academic and career goals. It will give students the chance to experience graduate work in English without committing time and money to a full 2-3 years of graduate study, especially if they are unsure of their desire to pursue graduate work. For students who want to continue with graduate work, the BA/MA degree will make them more competitive in professional school applications, and could potentially shorten overall time to degree in some English PhD programs. In addition, the degree would allow students extra time to develop critical, analytical, research, and writing skills in preparation for employment in fields that value such experience, such as grant-writing, administration, and publishing. |
| 5. Comparative/Locational Advantage| To our knowledge, there are no other comparable BA/MA programs in the state or region. Similar programs are found at some aspirational peers.  

Indiana University
6. Curriculum

**Curriculum**

Students in the BA/MA program must complete all the requirements of the existing Bachelor’s degree in English, 6 additional hours of 600-level or above coursework as pre-requisite to the MA, and 24 hours of graduate-level MA coursework. All the course requirements of the regular MA (any of the MA tracks) are required for the BA/MA. The are two significant differences from the regular MA that enable students to complete both a BA and MA in five years:

-- Students in the BA/MA program will begin taking 600-level or above coursework by their Senior year.

-- Students in the BA/MA program will complete a portfolio requirement for their final examination in their final semester of graduate study rather than a thesis or text-based exam. This portfolio requirement is no less rigorous than the thesis or exam, but draws much more on previous work produced by the student during the student’s graduate work. The portfolio involves written as well as oral components.

Students in the BA/MA program can complete the required 6 hours of pre-requisite coursework and 24 hours of graduate credit coursework by taking 10 courses. These courses might be spread over their Senior and MA years, for example:

2 courses at 600 level or above during their Senior year, for 6 hours;
2 graduate courses during the Summer after their senior year for 6 hours, or one graduate course that summer for 3 hours and one the following summer.
3 graduate courses during the first semester of their MA year, for 9 hours;
2 graduate courses during the second semester of their MA year, for 6 hours;
English 897 Preparation for the MA Exam during the last semester of their MA year, for which they prepare a portfolio of work from their graduate courses over which they will be examined, for 3 hours.

If students take fewer than 2 courses while an undergraduate or do not take a summer course, they might take 4 graduate courses in their final semesters of work toward the MA.

No courses are currently offered online.

**Requirements for Eligibility for Admission to the BA/MA program**

- Current status as an English major at KU;
- At least one 500-level English course complete or in progress;
- GPA of 3.5 in undergraduate English coursework.

**Process for Applying for Admission to the BA/MA Program**

- Students interested in the program must meet with the Director or Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies in English by the beginning of their junior year.
• Students who have met the eligibility requirements may apply at any time during their junior year.
• The Director of Graduate Studies in English and two members of the faculty on the Graduate Admissions Committee will review and decide on all applications. This is the usual procedure for admission to the MA in the Department of English
• Applicants should submit the following material to the Director of Graduate Studies:
  • Statement of purpose for applying to BA/MA and longer-term goals;
  • Transcript of coursework at KU;
  • Sample of academic writing;
  • Letters of reference from two faculty members in English at KU who can speak to the applicant’s immediate readiness for graduate-level work (students should provide potential letter writers with a form from the Graduate Director and ask writers to submit letters directly to the Graduate Director).

Stipulations
• Courses can be applied only to one degree, the BA or MA, never to both.
• Students will declare which MA track they intend to pursue once they complete their Bachelor’s degree.
• Students will meet with the Director of Graduate Studies as soon as graduate coursework begins and at least once a semester for advising. Like all first-year graduate students, the BA/MA students will have their coursework performance reviewed by the Director of Graduate Studies by the end of the fall semester of their Senior year when they are taking the pre-requisite courses. If they drop below a 3.0 GPA, they will not be eligible to continue in the program.
• Given their heavy course load (9-12 credits per semester), these students will not be eligible for GTA positions in our department.
• If for any reason a student is unable to complete the accelerated track within the stipulated year, the student may apply for admittance to the traditional MA.

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<tr>
<th>7. Faculty Profile</th>
<th>The required and elective courses for the track are already taught as part of our regular MA and PhD programs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Student Profile</td>
<td>Anticipated student enrollment</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Anticipated number of program graduates after 5 years: 14; after 7 years: 20. This is a conservative estimate.

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<tr>
<th>9. Academic Support</th>
<th>No additional support required.</th>
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<tr>
<td>10. Facilities and Equipment</td>
<td>No additional facilities/equipment required.</td>
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<td>11. Program Review,</td>
<td>The track will be reviewed in the same manner as our current MA tracks, in accordance with institutional requirements.</td>
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<td>Assessment, Accreditation</td>
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<td>12. Costs, Financing</td>
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<tr>
<td>No additional costs.</td>
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*When completed, this form is to be e-mailed by the College/School Dean to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Lawrence Campus. A copy of the submitted form is to be e-mailed to Abby Coffin, Assistant to the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.*