

HANDBOOK FOR
GRADUATE STUDENTS
IN ENGLISH

Loyola University Chicago

Sixteenth Edition
2009-2010

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Department Office and Personnel

Department Chair	Dr. Joyce Wexler	415 Crown	508-2240
Administrative Assistant	Ms. Brenda Jervier	401 Crown	508-2240
Assistant Chair	Dr. Brooks Bouson	427 Crown	508-2250
Director of Graduate Programs (GPD)	Dr. Pamela Caughie	423 Crown	508-2241
Graduate Program Secretary	Mrs. Maureen Taylor	402 Crown	508-2241
Director of Writing Programs	Dr. Vicky Anderson	417 Crown	508-8466
Director of the Writing Center	Dr. Michael Meinhardt	470 Crown	508-2247
Assistant Director of the Writing Center	Mr. Sean Labbe	245 Sullivan	508-7708
Director of Undergraduate Programs	Dr. James Biester	459 Crown	508-2791
Director of the Literacy Center	Dr. Jackie Heckman	473 Crown	508-2330

The English Department and the offices of all graduate faculty are located on the fourth floor of the Crown Center for the Humanities on the Lake Shore Campus. The Department can be reached by telephone at (773) 508-2240, or by post at:

Crown Center 402
Loyola University Chicago
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626

The Department maintains a Web site at www.luc.edu/depts/english.

Graduate School Offices

The main office of the Graduate School is on the fourth floor of the Granada Center on the Lake Shore Campus. This office handles admissions and financial aid, and houses the permanent files of all students throughout their graduate careers. The phone number for the Graduate School is (773) 508-3396. **Dr. Patricia Mooney-Melvin**, Associate Dean, and **Jessica Horowitz**, Assistant Dean, are your primary contacts for inquiries.

Director of Graduate Programs

Whether you are in the MA or PhD program, your main adviser will be the Director of Graduate Programs (abbreviated GPD). The current director is **Dr. Pamela Caughie**. You are expected to confer with her regularly about your course of study in pursuit of your degree. You are encouraged to meet with the Director at other times as well to discuss your progress in the program and your future plans.

Committee on Graduate Programs

The Director is advised on all matters of policy, admissions, and student status by the Committee on Graduate Programs. One student, chosen by election, sits on the Committee. The faculty members of the Committee also serve as jury for the Claves Award (see below).

English Graduate Student Association (EGSA)

The English Graduate Student Association is made up of all graduate students in the Department. A board (normally comprising five members) is elected from among the students as positions become available. EGSA sponsors social events for students and faculty, and publishes an occasional newsletter with information about the Department, student achievements, and upcoming events.

In addition, EGSA generally organizes a workshop each semester on topics of interest to English graduate students at Loyola. Recent topics have included writing for publication, the academic job search, PhD exam preparation, and careers in community college teaching. EGSA also serves as a forum for any special concerns graduate students may have and conveys those concerns to the Committee on Graduate Programs through the student representative.

Students in all phases of their graduate careers are warmly encouraged to participate actively in EGSA. The current board members are Lacey Conley, Natalie Kalich, Gillian Nelson, Ryan Peters, and Lara Wagner.

Student ID Cards

Student ID cards, giving access to library borrowing and other privileges, are available from the Campus Card Office, Sullivan Center, Room 117.

Computer Services

The University maintains several Computer Centers which are available for your use in Sullivan Center, Information Commons, and at 25 E. Pearson. There are also personal computers available for the use of Graduate Assistants in the Graduate Student office space in Crown Center 418.

An account on the student email system is created automatically for each new student. Both the Director of Graduate Programs and the Graduate School will use this account to communicate with you. **It is therefore crucial that you check your Loyola e-mailbox on a regular basis, or have your e-mail forwarded** to an account you check regularly. If you find that you are not receiving regular and frequent communications from the Department, please notify the Secretary.

Mail

Each graduate student in the English Department is assigned a mailbox in the Department workroom in Crown Center. Memos from faculty, EGSA, and University agencies are likely to be relayed to you through this mail system; therefore, these mailboxes should be checked frequently. Since the boxes are not locked, please be careful about what you leave in your box.

It is important to keep the Graduate Program Secretary informed of your current home address and phone number, as well as of your e-mail address. The Graduate School and the University should be notified of any changes as well through LOCUS (www.luc.edu/locus).

Bulletin Boards and Information

The bulletin board outside the GPD office (Crown 423) features information regarding the graduate programs—e.g., calls for papers, job offerings, fellowship opportunities. The board in the English main office has departmental notices.

The “Fishbowl”

All graduate students in English have access to a common space in Crown Center 418, better known as the “Fishbowl.” Keys are available from Ms. Brenda Jervier, the Department’s Administrative Secretary. A refundable \$15 deposit is required. Although any graduate student can check out a key to use this space, only those who are teaching are given keys to keep for the semester or year. You *must* return your key to Brenda Jervier when you are no longer teaching.

Teaching Opportunities

In addition to teaching assignments for Graduate Assistants, a number of teaching opportunities are available to experienced graduate students. The University requires that you have the MA degree; the Department requires that you have taken English 402 or its equivalent. All graduate students who do not already have teaching experience are strongly encouraged to arrange to take English 402 and to teach at least one course at Loyola. Contact the department chairperson for further information.

Summer Sessions

Two six-week summer sessions are offered through the Department each year, running from May to August. Two or three graduate-level courses are generally offered over the two summer terms. Teaching opportunities at the undergraduate level may be available for qualified instructors (see above). Be aware, however, that there are always more prospective teachers than available courses.

Housing

Most graduate students choose to find their own off-campus apartments using the ads in the *Reader*, the *Tribune*, and other publicly available sources. Loyola's Department of Residence Life also offers single- and double-occupancy apartments for graduate students on the Lakeshore Campus and the Water Tower Campus. For additional information, please see www.luc.edu/reslife.

Transportation

If you plan to commute to Loyola, there are several parking lots that you may use. The main parking structure, adjacent to Sheridan Road and to the Halas Sports Center, houses the Parking Office, where you may purchase a sticker for annual parking. The fee for one-day parking on campus is \$6.00. At peak class times, available parking can sometimes be scarce. Street parking in the community immediately surrounding campus is scarce. It is also restricted to residents during certain hours, so be sure to read the signs carefully to avoid being ticketed by the police.

Parking is also available near the Water Tower Campus, although it is more expensive. You can have your parking stub stamped at the information desk at the 25 E. Pearson building to receive a modest discount. If you teach or take classes at the Water Tower Campus, you will probably want to acquaint yourself with the University's inter-campus shuttle bus service. Public buses and the "E1" run frequently between campuses and to other points in the city.

Further information on parking is available at www.luc.edu/depts/safety/parking.html. For information on the shuttle, see www.luc.edu/transportation/shuttlebus.shtml.

Publication

PhD students are encouraged to pursue the publication of one or more journal articles during their graduate careers. In the current job market, publication is an important means of demonstrating to prospective employers a high level of motivation and professional competence.

Three ways to prepare for this goal are 1) to read journals in your fields of interest regularly in order to become familiar with both current scholarship and the requirements of scholarly publication; 2) to review the *MLA Directory of Periodicals* in order to learn what different journals expect or demand; and 3) to approach seminar papers, especially those in your field(s) of interest, as potential publications, possibly even as publications targeted to a particular journal. In developing a paper for publication, students are of course well advised to work closely with their seminar instructors or faculty mentors. Current periodicals are located in Cudahy Library. The *MLA Directory* is available in the reference section.

Conference Presentations and Travel Funding

Presentation of conference papers is an important part of students' professional development, and PhD students in particular should aim to give at least two papers during their graduate careers—preferably including professional and not just graduate-student conferences.

Each semester the Graduate School has funds to support graduate student travel for the purpose of presenting papers or chairing sessions at conferences. Since funds are limited, students should apply *immediately* upon acceptance of their papers or sessions. (Forms are available at <http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/forms/TVLFRM0809.doc>.) The Department supplements these funds when the Graduate School's funds are exhausted or when a student is presenting a paper at a second conference within one academic year. (Department forms are available on the Graduate Programs website at <http://www.luc.edu/english/pdfs/travel.pdf>.) The Department also has funding for attending summer seminars or conducting dissertation research at a research library outside Chicago. These are competitive awards offered each semester. The current subvention from the Graduate School for travel is \$400. Departmental travel support, which is funded primarily from the EGSA Student Activities budget, is likely to provide a much lower level of sponsorship. Research awards are provided through the Department's Gravett-Tuma fund and are around \$500 (depending on the number of awards and the funds available).

Placement Officer

Each year a member of the faculty is appointed to advise students in their pursuit of an academic appointment. The Placement Officer offers advice on all aspects of the job search and will arrange for mock interviews before the MLA meetings in December, where most interviewing takes place. All students who are entering the job market should contact the Placement Officer early in the fall semester, before they begin to apply for positions. This year's Placement Officer is **Dr. Paul Jay**.

For the benefit of graduate students on the job market, the Department has established an informative Web site at www.luc.edu/english/graduate_placement.shtml.

Career Center

The University's Career Center, where each student entering the job market should establish a dossier containing letters of recommendation, is located in Sullivan Center, Room 295 (508-7716). For more information, consult the Placement Officer or visit our Web site.

Clayes Essay Awards

Each year the Department sponsors a competition among graduate students for the Stanley Clayes Memorial Award. Cash prizes are awarded to outstanding essays written for a graduate class (excluding ENGL 501 and ENGL 502) the preceding academic year. The deadline for submissions is in September, and the Clayes presentations and reception is held in October. You are strongly encouraged to discuss your submission with the professor for whom you wrote the paper.

II. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Course Loads

A full-time student will usually carry three courses per semester, or, for Graduate Assistants entering the classroom as instructors, two courses and one teaching assignment. Course loads for part-time students are worked out on an individual basis.

Registration

Both new and continuing students must complete the process of registration before every semester in which they are either attending classes or writing their dissertations. A schedule of courses for the upcoming term is available a few months before classes are scheduled to begin. **In order to register for graduate courses you must first consult with the Director of Graduate Programs.** Once your selections are approved, they will be entered into the system by the Graduate Programs Secretary, completing the registration process. **It is your responsibility to check LOCUS to verify your registration each semester. Students must maintain continual registration throughout their years in the program** or risk having to apply for reinstatement and pay both a penalty and back fees.

Grades

The grading system used in the Graduate School is as follows:

A	4.00	I	Incomplete
A-	3.67	W	Withdrawal
B+	3.33	WF	Withdrawal, Failure
B	3.00	CR	Credit
B-	2.67	NC	No Credit
C+	2.33	AU	Audit
C	2.00		
D	1.00		
F	0.00		

For further information on Loyola's grading policy, consult the *Graduate School Catalog*.

Graduate students in the English Department are expected to maintain an average of not less than *B* (3.0). Those who fail to meet this requirement may be dismissed. No more than two grades below *B* and no grades of *D* or *F* may be counted as fulfilling degree requirements. In any case, PhD students who find themselves receiving primarily *B*'s (or below) should consider seriously whether pursuing a doctorate in English remains the most gainful use of their time.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from graduate seminars is uncommon; however, *students who do withdraw from a course must first consult with the Graduate Program Director before dropping through LOCUS*. Students should check the academic calendar for deadlines on withdrawing for full or partial refunds, and with a W or F grade. **Students are responsible for withdrawing themselves from classes.**

Incompletes

Faculty may assign the grade of I to a student who has not completed the assigned work by the end of the term. This grade is not assigned automatically; rather, it is up to the student to work out with the instructor a plan, including a deadline, for completing the work for the course. **The Graduate Program Director must sign off on incompletes before they will be awarded.** Students need to download the change-of-grade form from the Graduate School website and give it to the Graduate Program Director when the incomplete is approved.

Under the Graduate School regulations, a student has one semester to complete the course. If the student does not turn in the work by the deadline, the I will automatically become an F. Please read the new policy on the Graduate School web page at http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics_policies.shtml#grades1.

Although it is not uncommon for graduate students to take an occasional Incomplete, it is of course better *not* to take an incomplete when possible. Making up an incomplete course often proves harder than students expect, particularly if much time has elapsed since the end of the course. In any case, faculty members have various policies regarding Incompletes, so it is advisable to discuss the matter with your instructor as early as possible if you anticipate the need for an Incomplete. You must also complete a form (available on our Web site at www.luc.edu/english/links.shtml) and have it signed by the GPD. **No more than one I can be requested in a semester, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., a serious illness).**

Leaves of Absence

Official leaves of absence are intended for students who wish to discontinue temporarily their graduate studies due to special circumstances (e.g., medical, personal, or professional reasons). A leave of absence postpones all deadlines concerning completion of degree requirements for the duration of the leave. A student requesting a leave must complete a Leave of Absence form and contact the Graduate Program Director, who then makes a recommendation on the student's behalf to the Graduate School. Decisions regarding the approval of leaves of absence rest with the Graduate School.

Leaves of absence may be requested for a semester or for a full academic year. **In order to be reinstated to active status, the student must notify the Graduate School in writing upon returning from a leave.** Unless the student is granted a renewal of a leave, he or she must return to active status in the semester following its expiration. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from the program.

Advanced Standing/Transfer Credits

It is ordinarily expected that all work for the Master's degree will be completed at Loyola. Upon the recommendation of the Graduate Program Director, however, and with the approval of the Dean, up to six hours of credit for graduate work at another university may be counted toward the degree.

For students entering the PhD program with prior graduate work, up to thirty hours of credit may, with the Department's recommendation and the Dean's approval, be counted toward a Loyola PhD. The precise number of hours credited toward advanced standing is worked out by the Director of Graduate Programs during a student's first semester in the program.

Academic Honesty

Although academic dishonesty can take many forms, in our field it manifests primarily as plagiarism. The *Graduate School Catalog* defines plagiarism as "the appropriation for gain of ideas, language or work of another without sufficient public acknowledgement that the material is not one's own." As a graduate student, you very likely have a good understanding of the boundaries of what is acceptable and what is not. If you are ever uncertain, it is of course best to consult the Director of Graduate Programs or another faculty member.

The penalty for an instance of plagiarism is, at a minimum, failure on the assignment, which may well be tantamount to failure in the course. A serious breach or a pattern of dishonesty can lead to expulsion from Loyola. Although quite rare in our department, cases have occurred in the past and have resulted in dismissal.

Grievance Procedure

Students, faculty, and administrators are strongly encouraged to resolve any problems they encounter in the academic process through informal discussion. If you are unable to resolve a problem with a member of the staff or faculty, or if you wish to lodge a formal complaint, you should first meet to discuss the matter with the Director of Graduate Programs. If the problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the GPD, it will be taken up by the Department Chair. Violations of the University's ethical standards not resolvable within the Department may call for the use of the Graduate School's grievance procedure. Students wishing to initiate a grievance must do so in writing to the Dean. Further information can be obtained from the Graduate School office.

III. THE MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM

Course and Examination Requirements

- English 400 (Introduction to Graduate Study).
- At least *three* courses in literary studies. At least *one* course must be in literature before 1800, *one* in literature after 1800.
- At least *one* course in critical theory (courses numbered 410-429).
- At least one course in composition, rhetoric, or related areas (English 300, 321, 401-409).
- Two elective courses, for a total of twenty-four hours.
- MA Qualifying Examination (see below).

MA Qualifying Examination

Immediately after the regular exam period for the second Summer term ends, all students will take a four-hour written examination; the exam will be prepared and graded by a four-member M.A. examining committee. The exam will include questions in three areas: literature before 1800; literature after 1800; and composition/rhetoric, textual studies, and literary theory. Students will answer one question—from among a range of questions supplied by the examining committee—in the literature section and one in the theory section. The examining committee will review the syllabi for all graduate courses taught during the Fall, Spring, and two Summer terms as it prepares these questions, and students are expected to draw on their course readings in their responses.

The exam will be graded as High Pass, Pass, Low Pass or Fail. The minimum requirements for the M.A. degree will be a Low Pass on the exam and a B average in all course work. M.A. students who fail the exam may retake it once, at the conclusion of the Fall semester in the same year. **Ph.D. students who fail the exam may also retake it once, but only to complete the M.A. degree: they will not be allowed to continue in the program.** Ph.D. students who receive a Low Pass will have their exams forwarded to the Committee on Graduate Programs, which will review their exams and their performance in course work in order to determine whether or not they should be permitted to continue, and if so under what probationary conditions.

The MA exam serves as both a requirement for the Master's degree and a qualifying exam for students intending to proceed toward the PhD. The Committee on Graduate Programs will consider the performance of such students in all facets of the MA program; however, the MA exam is designed as a key indicator of students' ability to continue work toward the PhD. **The exam is given at the end of second summer term (date TBA). All candidates must take the examination at that time.**

Portfolio Review

Because first-year Ph.D. students must register for fall classes before taking the MA exam, however, the department has instituted a portfolio review for all first-year Ph.D. students whose GPA for the fall and spring semesters is below 3.5. Those students must submit a portfolio of three essays (totaling at least 30 pages) to the GPD the week after spring semester final exams. The portfolio must contain a letter to the GPD explaining the challenges the student faced the first year and how the student has responded to those challenges. Members of the Graduate Programs Committee will review the portfolio and make a recommendation to the GPD. Even if the student is advised not to continue for the Ph.D., he or she will take the MA exam in August to complete the MA degree.

Master's Thesis

A thesis is *not* required for the MA degree. Students may choose to write a thesis in lieu of taking two classes (6 credits), although course work is strongly recommended over the thesis option. Students wishing to do a thesis should discuss this option as early as possible with the Director of Graduate Programs. Regarding thesis procedures, see the *Graduate School Catalog*.

Time and Residence Requirements

Normally it takes one year of full-time study to earn a master's degree in English from Loyola. Students who attend part time must complete the program within five years. This period may be extended only by special action of the Dean of the Graduate School.

Application for Degree

It is the exclusive responsibility of all graduate students to inform the Graduate School office of their intention to graduate with an MA degree. Once you have determined when you will receive your degree (e.g., December or May), you must file the "Application for Graduation" with the Graduate School several months before the graduation date (<http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/forms/applicationtoreceiveadegree.pdf>). Check the academic calendar for the Graduate School available through the main page of the Loyola website.

IV. THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Course and Examination Requirements

Doctoral students in English who have completed the MA degree must enter one of the following three specialized fields and meet the *both* the program requirements and the course requirements defined for that specialization.

Program requirements include:

- English 400: Introduction to Graduate Study.
- English 402: Teaching College Composition
- English 502: Independent Study for Doctoral Qualification
- Two courses in critical theory, textual studies, composition, and/or rhetoric (403-428); at least one of these two courses must be in critical theory

In addition, students in all three fields must complete the **research tool** requirements (see below).

Field-specific requirements include:

1. Medieval and Renaissance Literature

- At least *six* courses in Medieval and Renaissance Literature (numbered 440–459).
- At least *one* course in Nineteenth-Century Studies (ENGL 460-478 and 490-493).
- At least *one* course in Modern Literature and Culture (480–489 and 494–499).
- *Seven* electives to fulfill the 60-hour requirement.

2. Nineteenth-Century Studies

- At least *six* courses in Nineteenth-Century Literature (numbered 470–479, 490–493).
- At least *one* courses in Medieval or Renaissance Literature (440–459).
- At least *one* course in Modern Literature and Culture (480–489 and 494–499).
- *Seven* electives to fulfill the 60-hour requirement.

3. Modern Literature and Culture

Includes postmodern and contemporary literatures as well as the modernist period

- At least *six* courses in Modern Literature (numbered 480–489 and 494-499).
- At least *one* course in Medieval or Renaissance Literature (440–459).
- At least *one* course in Nineteenth-Century Literature (470–479, 490–493).
- *Seven* electives to fulfill the 60-hour requirement.

Note that other courses not listed above may, at the discretion of the Graduate Program Director, count toward one period requirement or another, depending on their specific content in a given semester. Also, with approval of the Graduate Program Director, students may take a graduate course in another department for elective credit as long as the course is taught by a professor with a terminal degree (that is, a PhD not an MA).

The MA Qualifying Examination, Foreign Language, and PhD Qualifying Examination requirements remain the same in all fields. Students will be free to change their field at any time, provided that they are able to fulfill the course requirements for the new field.

Research Tool Requirement

Prior to taking the PhD examination, students pursuing a PhD must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a language other than English, either by passing a translation examination or by taking a graduate-level course in a foreign language and receiving a grade of *B* or higher. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers reading courses specifically designed for graduate students in other disciplines. Students are encouraged to discuss completion of this requirement with the Director of Graduate Programs soon after entering the program.

MA Qualifying Examination

For information on this exam, please see section III, above.

PhD Qualifying Examination

The PhD examination includes a written and an oral component. The written exam consists of three three-hour papers covering fields to be chosen by the student in consultation with his or her examining committee and the Director of Graduate Programs. With the approval of their examiners, students must define three fields of the following kinds:

- 1) An area of **critical theory**;
- 2) An area of **composition and rhetorical theory**;
- 3) An **author**;
- 4) The literature of an **historical period and/or genre**, which may be additionally focused on a particular **subgroup**.

Students may include up to three fields of the last type, but only one field of any other type. Examples of Type 4 fields might include:

17th-Century British poetry
Postcolonial drama
African-American literature, 1914-1959
Modernist poetry

Early Modern women's writing
Disability in Medieval drama
Contemporary working-class fiction of the U.S.
Modernist manifestos

Any or all of the exam fields may be related to the student's dissertation topic; however, some breadth across fields is expected. And although the selection of texts within each field will be influenced to some extent by the student's particular interests and approach, he or she will also be expected to demonstrate a general mastery of the field.

Field descriptions and reading lists are worked out by the student in consultation with his or her examining committee and must be approved by the examiners and by the Director of Graduate Programs well before the written examination is scheduled. (Exams are given in November, February, and April each year.) The Graduate Program Director will provide you with a packet of materials detailing all exam-related procedures. **Reading lists are due several months before the exam date, and field statements are due one month prior to the exam.** The written examination is followed by a two-hour oral examination that is based on, but not limited to, the written portion. Students who fail the exam may retake it once, within one year.

English 501, "Directed Readings"

English 501 is an elective "independent study" course which may be taken at most twice in the PhD program. If you are interested in this option, you must first find a faculty member willing to direct it. You must then fill out a departmental form (available on our Web site at www.luc.edu/english/links.shtml) and submit the form to the Director of Graduate Programs for approval *in the semester prior to the course*. 501 requires a minimum of 12 contact hours between faculty and student (approximately 1 hour every week) and a minimum of 25 pages of writing.

English 502, "Independent Study for Doctoral Qualification"

In English 502, students prepare for the PhD Qualifying Examination and write a draft their dissertation proposals, or at least a literature review, under the supervision of their eventual dissertation directors. Graduate School and English Department forms must be approved by the Director of Graduate Programs *in the semester prior to the course*.

English 502 explicitly couples the drafting of a dissertation proposal—and thus the earliest stages of dissertation research, the formation of a core bibliography, and the definition of the project itself—with the student's preparation for the PhD Exam. The Department believes that these tasks are closely related, that they can and should be accomplished together, and that neither should supercede or delay the other. 502 requires a minimum of 7 contact hours between faculty and student (approximately 1 hour every two weeks) and the submission of a draft of the proposal or substantial progress toward that proposal, such as a literature review.

If a student takes an Incomplete in English 502, the course must be completed the next semester after the semester of registration. (See Incompletes above) A student who does not complete English 502 within the specified time will have to retake the course at his or her own expense.

Registration for Advanced Students

Students who have completed their course work should register for ENGL 610. After two semesters in ENGL 610, or once you have gained ABD status (see below), you should register for ENGL 600. **You must maintain continuous registration in English 600 until you complete your degree.** Both courses require a minimum of one contact hour monthly with the dissertation director and substantial writing (preferably a chapter draft) every 3 months.

Students do not need to register for 600 or 610 during the summer months. However, those on government loans who must show they are registered for classes over the summer can register for a “dummy” course, either GSSM S61 (if they are in 610) or S60 (for 600). Students must register for these courses themselves and will pay a nominal fee.

Advancement to Candidacy and Dissertation

You become a PhD candidate when you complete all course requirements (including English 502), fulfill the Foreign Language requirement, pass the PhD Examination, establish a dissertation committee, and have your dissertation proposal approved.

The selection of dissertation topic, director, and committee (two additional faculty “readers”) is made in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. Once these decisions have been made, you must obtain a copy of the Graduate School’s forms regarding the dissertation (available on line), and then prepare a proposal for the approval of your committee. After your proposal and committee are approved, you are considered “ABD.” Your progress now will be monitored by your dissertation director, who will report on your work to the GPD. (Note: You do *not* need to have the proposal approved by the entire committee to complete 502.)

When your dissertation is completed, you will give a “Final Public Presentation and Defense” of your project, followed by a question-and-answer session led by your dissertation committee. Reader’s copies are due to the committee one month prior to the defense, with a reader’s ballot for each member (available at http://www.luc.edu/english/pdfs/diss_ballot.pdf). Once these ballots are submitted, the Graduate Programs secretary will announce the defense publicly. At the defense, students need to present the chair of the committee with the Graduate School ballot for approval of the dissertation (available at <http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/forms/ballotfortext.pdf>). Students should check the Graduate School calendar for deadlines on format check and submission of the dissertation for a December or May degree.

Time and Residence Requirements

According to Graduate School regulations, work on the PhD must be completed eight years from the time you have begun course work applicable to the degree; if you entered with an MA, you will have six years from the time of beginning course work for the PhD.

Students who are beyond the eight-year (or six-year) limit will be surveyed on their progress annually by the Graduate Program Director and must apply to the Graduate School for an extension of their time limit. The Graduate Program Director and dissertation director will issue a recommendation to the Graduate School as to whether each such student should be permitted to continue toward the degree. Extensions are not routine; students must demonstrate that they are making progress toward the degree.

Students requesting extensions must fill out two forms, departmental (http://www.luc.edu/english/pdfs/diss_progress.pdf) and Graduate School (<http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/forms/extensiontime.pdf>). and return them to the GPD, but first they must defend their progress before their committees. (See the GPD to arrange a defense.)

Application for Degree

It is the exclusive responsibility of all graduate students to inform the Graduate School office of their intention to graduate with an MA or PhD degree. Once you have determined when you will receive your degree, you must file the “Application for Graduation” with the Graduate School several months before the graduation date.

V. ASSISTANTSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

Assistantships

Each year the Department of English offers a number of Graduate Assistantships for new and continuing students. Unlike many other universities, however, Loyola concentrates on developing assistants’ skills before allowing them to assume sole responsibility for a composition course. Rather than being immediately assigned to teach a class during their first semester of graduate school, assistants first gain experience tutoring undergraduates in the Writing Center. During their second semester, assistants work with a faculty member in a Mentorship Program that allows them to assume some grading and instructional duties within the mentor’s composition class.

In the second year (or first year post-MA), assistants teach one composition course each semester, receiving informal support and guidance from the mentor of the previous year. In the third year, assistants normally work as teaching assistants in one literature course each semester; they also return in the spring to tutor in the Writing Center. In the fourth year, assistants usually teach a literature course during one semester and serve as research assistants in the other.

Students entering the PhD program with only the B.A. are normally eligible for up to five years of Graduate Assistantship; those entering with the MA are eligible for up to four years. After that, students can apply through the Department for a range of fellowship opportunities made available by the Graduate School (see below).

Funding for Advanced Students

Students who have completed course work, passed the PhD exam, and received approval of their dissertation proposals are eligible to apply for the Arthur J. Schmitt Dissertation Fellowships. The award, which is not renewable, requires no service. Advanced students are also eligible to apply for a very limited number of Teaching Scholars Awards, whose service requirements include the teaching of three courses, and Advanced Fellowships with no teaching responsibilities.

For further information on these awards, administered by the Graduate School, please see http://www.luc.edu/gradschool/admission_financialaid.shtml.