

## FAQ about PhD Course Requirements

*Q: Where can I find the list of course requirements for the PhD in English?*

A: See page 7 of the English Graduate Student Handbook AKA “Guide to Graduate Studies: English Literature” (it’s the same page number for both pre-2011 and Fall 2011 matriculation).

*Q: Must all my major/minor/allied classes be taken in the English Department at UNC Chapel Hill?*

A: No—classes you take both in other departments within UNC Chapel Hill as well as at Duke and NC State can count towards a major/minor/allied requirement.

*Q: Must my allied classes be taken outside the English Department, and what exactly IS an allied field?*

A: An allied field, as per the language of the handbook, can be “historically, thematically, or methodologically related to student’s proposed “major” (7). Some examples (and these are only select examples) might include medical humanities, gender studies, critical race theory, the interwar period (the modernist era) in transatlantic literature, digital humanities, etc... You can take all of your allied classes as English department grad courses; indeed, all of your requirements can be fulfilled by taking classes within the English department, although we certainly encourage you to look at the graduate course offerings of other departments within UNC Chapel Hill as well as at Duke and NC State.

*Q: Will I receive a certificate for my minor field?*

A: No—the designation of “major” and “minor” are not the same as the way you may have thought about your major or minor during your BA degree. This is terminology that we use in the English department for purposes of course requirements as well as to designate areas that you will be tested in for your comprehensive examination. Please see the “Comprehensive Examination FAQ” for more about the major and minor designation.

*Q: I want to pick a major and a minor that will position me as a strong candidate on the job market—will those who are interviewing me for academic jobs see my major and minor?*

A: Again, the designation of “major” and “minor” is terminology that we use within the Department of English to help students frame their coursework and comprehensive examinations—they are fields of study that will help students write their dissertation.

Students are not required to select a “major” and “minor” for the graduate school, since other departments use other criteria/language for course requirements and exams. For example, graduate students in Comparative Literature use the terms “field” and “focus” for their comprehensive exams. As for which major and minor will allow you to be a strong candidate for an academic job, this is a very personal decision that should be guided by the kinds of intellectual interests that have propelled you to enter into a PhD program—your major and minor should be in fields that you wish to read in/study/research that will enable you to write your dissertation. No hiring committee will ever know what your “major” or “minor” was since, again, these designations are used in-house. Of course hiring committees will see your transcripts, so they will see that you have taken courses in certain areas, but they will not ask you what you “majored” or “minored” in.

*Q: I took a pedagogy course at my previous graduate institution—can I receive a waiver from ENGL 606?*

A: Please see the director of the writing program to determine whether your grad class can count to replace ENGL 606. The director will be able to assess whether you will receive a waiver and be exempt from taking ENGL 606, but the waiver will not count towards course credit.

*Q: I minored in French/had a double major in English and Spanish/fulfilled a foreign language requirement at my previous graduate program – can I use these to fulfill one (or more) of my foreign language requirements?*

A: Yes—please see the Graduate Student Handbook and the FAQ about “Transferring Courses” – essentially you must have transcripts that show your undergraduate foreign language major/minor and/or documentation that fulfilled your MA foreign language requirement.

*Q: How can I check to see if I’ve fulfilled all my course requirements?*

A: Please see Appendix D (page 25 in the Graduate Handbook for students who matriculated Fall 2011 and later; page 26 in the Graduate Handbook for students who matriculated before Fall 2011)—this is a checklist that you can use to ensure that you have fulfilled your course requirements. Feel free to complete this checklist and bring it with you to your annual course of study plan meeting with the DGS in February.