

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of English

Graduate Study in Rhetoric: Status Report

The following brief description--in response to student inquiries--explains what we now offer in rhetoric and what we hope to be able to offer in the future. For further information, contact the Graduate Advisor, Department of English, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712 (telephone: [512] 471-4991).

1. Concentration in Rhetoric. A Concentration in Rhetoric consists of twelve hours of graduate work in rhetoric. The graduate faculty has approved an M.A. plan by which students may complete the Concentration, along with traditional work in graduate English studies, without having to take additional hours for the M.A. Although specific details are still being worked out, the plan should be operative by January of 1980, and students are free to begin on the program in September of 1979. Ph.D. candidates may also take the Concentration in Rhetoric. For some Ph.D. candidates, completion of the Concentration may require an extra course or two; for others, no additional course work will be necessary. The details will be worked out in a conference between the Ph.D. candidate and the Graduate Advisor.

2. The Special Programs Committee. Operative for several years now, the Special Programs Committee is a means by which a Ph.D. candidate may develop--with the approval of the student's Ph.D. Committee, the Graduate Advisor, and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee--an individualized Ph.D. program which is an adjustment of the traditional Ph.D. to allow for special study desired by the individual student. Standard Ph.D. requirements are not set aside; they are reduced, adjusted, to allow for individualized work while keeping the total hours at the same or approximately the same total for students doing the traditional Ph.D. The plan cannot be described in detail since it is an individualized plan, but it is available now to qualified students.

3. Under Consideration: A Ph.D. in Rhetoric. The process by which a new Ph.D. is approved is rather slow, and even eventual approval cannot be guaranteed. Also, we are still at the committee level, with plans to recommend to the Graduate Faculty in English, early next Fall, a proposed Ph.D. in Rhetoric. It is not realistic for students to plan on taking this program. The process, even if approval is obtained, can take two or three years. The proposal is described below, however, since it illustrates the type of program which might be worked out, on an individual basis, under the auspices of the Special Programs Committee, for Ph.D. candidates currently enrolled or for those beginning in the Fall of 1979.

English and American Literature:	24-33 hours
Linguistics	6 hours
Rhetoric (in the English Department)	12 hours
Rhetoric (or rhetoric-related courses, in other departments)	12 hours
Dissertation (Rhetoric related)	6 hours
	<hr/> 60-69 hours