

Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
Department of English
Master's Program in English
PhD Programs in English

Assessment Measures

The Department of English uses the following measures to assess departmental learning outcomes:

- 1) Progression through the programs
- 2) Job Placement

Assessment Findings

Progression Through the Programs Discussion
(Appendix A):

The Department of English analyzed data for M.A. and Ph.D. student's for a five-year period (Fall 2003 through Fall 2007). The Department has witnessed a dramatic jump in the amount of M.A. degrees granted during the last two academic years.

2 M.A. 2003-2004
4 M.A. 2004-2005
3 M.A. 2005-2006
13 M.A. 2006-2007
9 MA 2007-2008

Over the last five years every student except one who earned the M.A. degree passed comprehensives within three years of entering the program (see Appendix A).

The amount of Ph.D. degrees awarded during the five year period varied, with an increase occurring during the second and third years followed by a decline.

3 Ph.D. 2003-2004
9 Ph.D. 2004-2005
7 Ph.D. 2005-2006
1 Ph.D. 2006-2007
4 Ph.D. 2007-2008

The decrease in the number of Ph.D. degrees granted over the last two years corresponded with a spike in the amount of M.A. degrees granted. It should be noted that of the 22 M.A. students who graduated, 15 were accepted into and entered the Ph.D. program. During discussion of the

graduate program, the faculty unanimously expressed enthusiasm over the quality and performance of our graduate students

Job Placement of PhD Graduates

The Department of English collected information regarding the occupations of students granted the Ph.D. over the five year period. Many of the graduates were contacted. The following is a list of positions held by students who earned the Ph.D. over the five year period:

2003-2004

Assistant Professor, Calvin College

Associate Professor and Chair, Frostburg State University

Assistant Professor, Kendall College of Art and Design

Instructor, University of Hartford

2004-2005

Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy

Associate Professor, Eastern New Mexico University

Arts Designer and Instructor, University of Maryland

Superintendent Boston Charter Schools

Assistant Professor, Boston University

Regional Manager, Borders Books, Los Angeles

Associate Professor and Chair, Christendom College

Instructor, Boston University

Assistant Professor, Boston University

2005-2006

Associate Professor, Anna Marie College

Assistant Professor, Stevenson University

Director of Writing Center, Colgate University

Homemaker

Senior Graphic Designer, Eagle Publishing

Assistant Professor, SUNY-Cortland

Assistant Professor, Marymount Manhattan College, NYC

2006-2007

Assistant Professor, Sussex County College

2007-2008

Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy

Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee-Martin

Content Strategy Manager, Hewlett-Packard

Unknown

16 of the 25 Ph.D. graduates over the five year period found tenure-track jobs at universities or four-year colleges. Three others teach at the college level, but in non-tenure track positions. All three cited personal reasons as determining factors. Three graduates have chosen to work in the private sector, continuing jobs they held before earning the Ph.D., and one graduate works in the public secondary school system as Superintendent of Boston Charter Schools. Another has chosen to remain home with her three young children, and we have no employment information for one graduate (he finished the Ph.D. in 2008).

The academic job market in English is tight, and the faculty agreed that the Department's record of job placement for our graduates is excellent. Virtually all Ph.D. graduates who have sought tenure-track academic positions have found them, and others have landed good jobs in the private sector.

General Discussion

Discussions among faculty and with Ph.D. graduates revealed a wide level of satisfaction with the graduate program. Some of the M.A. graduates are high school teachers who work during the day and take courses at night, but the Department has also seen a significant increase in the amount of M.A. graduates who are accepted into and enter the Ph.D. program. The faculty is very pleased with the quality of our students, though the need for a significant increase in the paltry stipend (\$11,000 per academic year) teaching assistants receive is necessary.

The Department's success is largely due to its emphasis on literary history and aesthetics, rather than on literary theory. The Department has become known for this specialty, a factor which we feel has helped us attract excellent students and place our Ph.D. graduates. During the last five years scholars at other universities have praised the English Department at CUA for its unique emphasis. For example in the *Boston Globe* Harold Bloom, Sterling Professor of Literature at Yale University, cited CUA as one of the best places in the country to study literature http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2003/10/19/consistent_contrarian?mode=PF. In the fall of 2008, the magazine *Literary Matters*, published by the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics, featured the English Department as one of the best places in the country to pursue a graduate degree, citing our record of excellent job placement for our Ph.D. graduates and our emphasis on literary history and aesthetics.

Appendix A

**ENGLISH MA/PHD: DEGREES AWARDED BY ACADEMIC YEAR
AY 2003/04 to AY 2007/2008**

AY 2003/2004

ID	School	Plan	Degree	Beginning Term	Completion Term
1	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 2003	Spring 2004
2	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1998	Summer 2004
3	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1999	Summer 2004
4	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2001	Summer 2004
5	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2002	Summer 2004

AY 2004/2005

ID	School	Plan	Degree	Beginning Term	Completion Term
1	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1999	Fall 2004
2	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1992	Fall 2004
3	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 2004	Spring 2005
4	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2002	Spring 2005
5	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1995	Summer 2005
6	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1997	Summer 2005
7	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1992	Summer 2005
8	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1996	Summer 2005
9	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 2001	Summer 2005
10	ASG	RHET-PHD	PHD	Fall 2000	Summer 2005
11	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2002	Summer 2005
12	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2003	Summer 2005
13	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2003	Summer 2005
14	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2003	Summer 2005

AY 2005/2006

ID	School	Plan	Degree	Beginning Term	Completion Term
1	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1993	Fall 2005
2	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 2001	Summer 2006
3	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1996	Summer 2006
4	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1996	Summer 2006
5	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1994	Summer 2006
6	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1994	Summer 2006
7	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1999	Summer 2006
8	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Summer 2006
9	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Summer 2006
10	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Summer 2006

**ENGLISH MA/PHD: DEGREES AWARDED BY ACADEMIC YEAR
AY 2003/2004 to AY 2007/2008**

AY 2006/2007

ID	School	Plan	Degree	Beginning Term	Completion Term
1	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 1994	Fall 2006
2	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Fall 2006
3	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Fall 2006
4	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Spring 2007
5	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Spring 2007
6	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Spring 2007
7	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Spring 2007
8	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1995	Summer 2007
9	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007
10	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007
11	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007
12	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007
13	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007
14	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Summer 2007

AY 2007/2008

ID	School	Plan	Degree	Beginning Term	Completion Term
1	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2004	Fall 2007
2	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2005	Fall 2007
3	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Spring 2001	Spring 2008
4	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Spring 2008
5	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Summer 2006	Spring 2008
6	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Spring 2008
7	ASG	RHET-PHD	PHD	Fall 1999	Summer 2008
8	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 1993	Summer 2008
9	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Summer 2008
10	ASG	ENGL-PHD	PHD	Fall 2003	Summer 2008
11	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Summer 2008
12	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Summer 2008
13	ASG	ENGL-MA	MA	Fall 2006	Summer 2008