

MA Essay Nuts and Bolts — Updated

1. MA Essay Requirements:

- The essay: an extended argument over 25-30 pages
- Attendance at the Fall semester MA essay workshop led by the DGS/ADGS
- Securing a faculty Sponsor before the late January deadline set by the DGS/ADGS
- Regular advising meetings with Sponsor, to a schedule satisfactory to the student and Sponsor
- Submission (with sponsor's approval) of an MA essay proposal by the deadline set by the DGS/ADGS
- Submission (to sponsor's satisfaction) of a 20 page essay draft to a deadline set by the DGS/ADGS
- Submission of a final essay draft by a late August deadline set by the DGS/ADGS¹

Failure to complete any of these requirements will affect a student's grade for the MA Thesis Tutorial, up to and including receiving an "F" for this required course, with the result that the student will not receive the MA degree.

2. Deadlines

- Secure a Sponsor: January 27, 2023
- Submit Proposal: February 17, 2023
- Submit 20-page draft: March 31, 2023
- Submit MA Essay (May conferral): April 21, 2023
- Submit MA Essay (October conferral) August 25, 2023

NB: Students who wish to graduate in May 2023 must submit before the end of the spring.¹ Speak to the ADGS early in the spring 2023 semester if you wish to graduate in May.

3. Registration

Although you will work with an individual sponsor, if you wish to write the MA Essay this year, you must register on SSOL for: **ENGL 5005 GR: MA Essay Tutorial**, for which Professor Julie Crawford (Associate DGS in Spring 2023) will be the instructor of record.

4. Grading

Students receive two sets of grades for the MA Essay: (i) A grade assigned by your Sponsor, which appears on your transcript, and reflects the totality of your work developing, researching, drafting, and discussing the MA Essay; (ii) two grades, assigned by your Sponsor and Second Reader, that reflect only the quality of the final essay and do not appear on your transcript.

5. MA Essay Sponsor

Your MA Essay sponsor is a faculty member in English and Comparative Literature (or a related department or program) with expertise relevant to the topic of your essay. They help you develop your proposal, advise you on a research plan, and comment on drafts of your essay. Finally, they grade your work, as described above.

Faculty are not required to serve as MA Essay Sponsors and will sometimes decline to do so if they are on leave, already committed to other students, or otherwise unavailable. If you have trouble securing a sponsor, talk to the ADGS.

6. Second Reader

Your Second Reader is assigned by the ADGS. The Second Reader has expertise

relevant to your topic and assigns a grade for the final essay, acting as a check and balance on the Sponsor's grade. In the event that the Sponsor and Second Reader disagree significantly about the accurate grade, a third reader will be assigned by the ADGS. These grades do not appear on your transcript, only the Sponsor's grade for the MA Essay Tutorial. You should not contact your Second Reader, nor should you expect to meet with them to discuss your MA Essay. They will, however, send you written feedback via Deanna or the ADGS.