The PhD program seeks to train students to be productive scholars and teachers in the fields of both literary studies and rhetoric and composition. In course work, students read and analyze the important texts, current issues, and critical methodologies of the discipline. Drawing on the breadth of this preparation, students demonstrate their ability to recognize and produce scholarly arguments in designing the three comprehensive field papers in areas of scholarly interest and competence corresponding to recognized and emerging fields of study. Finally, the dissertation offers students an opportunity to design a focused research project in consultation with a dissertation advisor. Throughout the program, faculty works closely with doctoral students to develop their scholarly and professional identities in preparation for careers in academia.

**Academic Standing/Progress**
To be considered in good academic standing, PhD students must be making progress toward their degree requirements, including maintaining a 3.500 minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) and completing the comprehensive examination within one year of finishing course work.

**Doctoral Degree Candidacy**
Students entering with a relevant BA must complete 48 semester hours; students entering with a relevant MA must complete 24 semester hours. All students must complete the language requirement, pass the comprehensive examination, and submit their approved prospectus within six months after completing the comprehensive examination to reach candidacy.

**General Regulations**
Program requirements are described in the CSSH Graduate Programs General Regulations (http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/graduate/current_students/) and the Graduate Program in English PhD Guide (https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/english/graduate/current-student-resources/). Both documents are updated annually.

**Program Requirements**

**Bachelor's Degree Entrance**

**Milestones**
Annual progress review
Two languages
Comprehensive exam
Dissertation committee
Dissertation prospectus
Doctoral degree candidacy
Public prospectus/dissertation work-in-progress presentation
Dissertation defense

**Core Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5103</td>
<td>Proseminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 7392</td>
<td>Writing and the Teaching of Writing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Theories and Methods**
Complete 4 semester hours from the following: 4
ENGL 7342 | Topics in Criticism                   |       |
ENGL 7351 | Topics in Literary Study (selected topics only) | |
ENGL 7358 | Topics in Literature and other Disciplines (selected topics only) | |
ENGL 7370 | Introduction to Digital Humanities   |       |
WMNS 6100 | Theorizing Gender and Sexuality       |       |
WMNS 7976 | Directed Study (GCWS Consortium, selected topics only) | |

**Writing and Rhetoric**
Complete 4 semester hours from the following: 4
ENGL 7360 | Topics in Rhetoric                   |       |
ENGL 7395 | Topics in Writing                    |       |

**Literary Periods**

**Literature Pre-1700**
Complete 4 semester hours from the following: 4
ENGL 7281 | Topics in Medieval Literature        |       |
ENGL 7282 | Topics in Renaissance Literature     |       |
ENGL 7342 | Topics in Criticism (selected topics only) | |

**Literature 1700–1900**
Complete 4 semester hours from the following: 4
ENGL 7284 | Topics in 18th-Century Literature    |       |
ENGL 7351 | Topics in Literary Study (selected topics only) | |

**Literature Post-1900**
Complete 4 semester hours from the following: 4
ENGL 7215 | Topics in 20th-Century American Literature | |
ENGL 7244 | African-American Novel               |       |
ENGL 7351 | Topics in Literary Study (selected topics only) | |

**Electives**
Complete 20 semester hours of ENGL courses. 20

**Dissertation**

**Exam Preparation**
ENGL 8960 | Exam Preparation—Doctoral (Only needed for PhD students who have completed coursework but have yet to complete the comprehensive exams. Repeatable.) | |

**Research**
ENGL 9986 | Research (To be completed during the proposal/prospectus phase prior to reaching candidacy.) | |

**Dissertation**
ENGL 9990 | Dissertation Term 1                  |       |
ENGL 9991 | Dissertation Term 2                  |       |

**Dissertation Continuation**
Following completion of two semesters of ENGL 9990, registration in the following class is required in each semester (excluding summers) until the dissertation is completed:

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 9996</td>
<td>Dissertation Continuation</td>
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</table>

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

48 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.500 GPA required

Advanced Entry PhD Program Requirements

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones
Annual progress review
Two languages
Comprehensive exam
Dissertation prospectus
Doctoral degree candidacy
Public prospectus/dissertation work-in-progress presentation
Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

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Electives

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Complete 16 semester hours of ENGL courses.</td>
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</table>

Dissertation

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 9991</td>
<td>Dissertation Term 2</td>
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</table>

Program Credit/GPA Requirements

24 total semester hours required
Minimum 3.500 GPA required