

Graduate Studies in English

Departmental Application

Writing Sample Cover Sheet

For admission to the M.A. in Literary Studies or Ph.D. Program

Date: _____

Degrees Earned:

Name: _____

B.A.: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ G.P.A.: _____

M.A.: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____ G.P.A.: _____

E-mail: _____

For which program are you applying? M.A. in Literary Studies or Ph.D. Program

In which semester do you wish to enter? (Check one)

August 20_____

January 20_____

June 20_____

Are you applying for a departmental Graduate Award? Yes No
(Not applicable for Ph.D. students entering in January or June or for M.A. applicants)

Information about the requirements for this writing sample is located on the reverse side of this sheet.

In the space below, describe the nature of the class assignment for which this paper was required.
(Include title of paper and whether it was done when you were a graduate or undergraduate)

All M.A. and Ph.D. applicants are required to submit a sample of their critical or scholarly writing. Not to include it or this cover sheet will delay the processing of your application.

Department of English
University of Iowa
308 EPB
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Graduate Studies in English

Writing Sample Information and Requirements

For admission to the M.A. in Literary Studies or the Ph.D. Program

All applicants are required to submit a sample of their critical or scholarly writing. Not to include the writing sample and cover sheet (see other side) with other materials submitted to the Department will delay the processing of your application.

The writing sample is a crucial part of your application. It will be read by the Admissions Committee and by a member of the faculty who shares your interests. In each paper our readers look for the quality of writing which they think is necessary for a person beginning graduate work in English. They look for clarity and precision, for a sensibly organized and well-documented argument, and for a judicious use of previous scholarship and criticism. Above all, our readers look for evidence of an applicant's ability to write effectively and intelligently about literature.

Applicants, therefore, should submit a paper which they believe best fulfills these standards, not necessarily the one for which they received the highest grade or most laudatory comments. We discourage applicants from sending such exercise as annotated bibliographies, student journals, or "creative" work, which may have done well and met legitimate needs and class assignments but are not the kind of writing which will best help us determine your potential as a graduate student in literary studies.

Because of the number of applications we receive, we ask applicants to submit only on paper, of moderate length (10-25 pages). If originally written for a class, this paper should include the instructor's comments and evaluation. A photocopy is acceptable, but it must be legible. **An illegible paper is not acceptable.** In any case, the paper **should not** have been retyped.

Applicants for admission to the M.F.A. in Nonfiction Writing Program are not required to submit writing samples as described above. The information entitled "Master of Fine Arts in Nonfiction Writing" contains a description of the kind of writing sample required by the program.

Please complete the other side of this sheet.