

Approved at Dept. meeting, 6 Feb. 2009

English Department Policy Statement re Exit Portfolio

All graduating students will submit an exit portfolio consisting of the following three items:

- 1) Revised Paper. 20-25 pp., not including bibliography.
The revision of a paper previously submitted for a course in the M.A. program (but not an ENG 690 project) will be undertaken in consultation with a faculty adviser. Usually this will be the professor to whom the original paper was submitted. However, if circumstances make this difficult or impossible, the student may work with a faculty member chosen in consultation with the Chair of the Graduate Program Committee.
- 2) Abstract: 1 page (250 words)
- 3) Reflective Essay: 4-6 pages

Format

All documents must be printed in 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with left margins of 1.5" and remaining margins of 1".

Due Date

For students graduating at the end of Fall semester, the portfolio is due Nov. 15.
For students graduating at the end of Winter semester (or the following Summer), the portfolio is due April 1.

For further guidance on the Reflective Essay, see over.

Reflective Essay

The reflective essay should accomplish two primary tasks:

- a) Reflect upon the student's intellectual experience as he or she has progressed through the graduate program.
- b) Speculate upon directions for continued growth beyond the graduate program.

a) Intellectual growth – learning curve. Describe the narrative of your intellectual growth over the course of the program. How have you developed as a scholar? How has the helped you better to understand and to appreciate the discipline of literary studies?

b) Future directions – Describe and evaluate how the graduate work you have completed at Oakland will figure into your future plans – academically, professionally, and/or intellectually.

- For teachers (secondary/community college): How will the graduate work you have completed at Oakland apply in your classroom? Cite examples of connections that you might draw between the work you have done in Oakland and your own classroom pedagogy.
- For aspiring PhDs: What special interests or skills have developed out the work you have completed in the M.A. program? How do you imagine developing these interests or skills as you apply for PhD programs and proceed into graduate work at the next level?
- For those entering non-teaching careers, or exploring other opportunities: How might the English M.A. serve you in careers you are considering? How might the skills and interests that you have developed in the graduate program serve you beyond career goals?

As you respond to both writing tasks, you should make specific reference to the paper you have submitted for your portfolio. Discuss how it showcases your intellectual growth and how it might be relevant to future activities beyond graduate school.