



PhD Handbook, Literature, Rhetoric & Composition Program

English Department
University of Raparin

Welcome Statement

University of Raparin (UoR) offers two Ph.D. programs—one in English Literature and the other in Rhetoric and Composition—in collaboration with Kent State University, Ohio, USA. UoR is offering these programs in order to attain international recognition for excellence and innovation regarding both traditional and newly emerging issues of language, writing, and literature. The Ph.D. programs offer highly specialized courses of study designed to develop students' capacity for research, original thought, and academic writing; to equip students for careers in the teaching of English at the college or university level; and to train students in writing, editing, and publishing. The program emphasizes literary studies and rhetoric and composition in English. Students in the Literature program choose two areas in which to specialize: (1) literary traditions, (2) and literary criticism and theory, a major author, or a special topic approved by the student's advisory committee. Students in the Rhetoric and Composition program have a single area of specialization. Coursework in both programs is devoted to developing a high degree of professional expertise. This expertise is tested in a qualifying examination and provides the basis for the doctoral dissertation.

The Aim

The purpose of this manual is to provide program-specific information which can only be found in this manual. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document.

Mission & Vision

The Doctoral Program in Literature. The purpose of the UoR doctoral program in literature is to develop students' abilities to critically examine literary texts, to teach literature effectively, and to make professional contributions to the field. To this end, the graduate faculty in English at UoR is dedicated to the careful mentoring of each student, and, as research is an important element of the program, special emphasis will be given to developing students' research skills and techniques. In other words, individual attention to student progress and research goals is paramount in the program. Additionally, it is anticipated that the candidates will develop the ability to identify, investigate, and theorize the social functions of texts in a variety of contexts both within and outside the academy. Drawing on a variety of cultural theories—such as deconstruction, feminism, gender theory, historical materialism, post-colonialism, and cognitive science—the program provides sustained focus on the social functions of all categories of text.

The Doctoral Program in Rhetoric and Composition. The UoR doctoral program in rhetoric and composition focuses on developing students' abilities to compare and contrast the rhetorical patterns of various cultures found throughout the literary and non-literary texts. The objective is to help the candidates develop the research skills and techniques commonly used in the field and to enhance their understanding and critical thinking about the role of rhetoric in various cultural contexts.

It is envisaged that these two doctoral programs will effectively contribute to the development of the profession of English studies. The programs are designed to prepare degree candidates for the job market and for college and university careers. In addition to teaching and tutoring, graduates will be involved in journal editing and article reviewing by the assistance of their supervisors. The department's commitment to its students includes the guiding of their research toward publication and the provision of funds for travel to conferences and research facilities both in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and abroad.

PhD Program Application & Admission Requirements

- **Academic Statement of Purpose**

Please describe (within 1000 words) in detail the substantive research questions you are interested in pursuing during your graduate studies and why they are significant. Additionally, make sure to include information about any training or research experience that you believe has prepared you for the program.

- **Personal Statement**

Please describe (within 1000 words) how your personal background and experiences influenced your decision to pursue a graduate degree and the research you wish to conduct. Explain, for example, the meaning and purpose of the PhD in the context of your personal history and future aspirations. Please note that we will pay additional attention to candidates who identify substantial reasons to obtain a Ph.D. beyond the pursuit of an academic position. Additionally, provide insight into your potential to contribute to a community of inclusion, belonging, and respect where scholars representing diverse backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn (productively and positively) together.

- **Critical Writing Sample**

Your academic writing sample must be between 3,000 and 7,500 words (12-30 pages), typed and double-spaced. We accept excerpts from longer works or a combination of shorter works.

- **Three Letters of Recommendation**

We require 3 letters of recommendation. At the time of application, you will be allowed to enter up to 4 recommenders in the system. Your application will be considered “Complete” when we have received at least 3 letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation are due December 1. Please select three people who best know you and your work. Submitting additional letters will not enhance your application. In the recommendation section of the application, you must include the email address of each recommender. After you save the information (and before you pay/submit), the application system will automatically generate a recommendation request email to your recommender with instructions for submitting the letter electronically. If your letters are stored with a credential service such as Interfolio, please use their Online Application Delivery feature and input the email address assigned to your stored document, rather than that of your recommender. The electronic files will be attached to your application when they are received and will not require the letter of recommendation cover page.

- **Transcripts**

Scan transcripts from each institution you have attended, or are currently attending, and upload them into the academic information section of the application. Please do not send paper copies of your transcripts. If you are subsequently admitted and accepted, the Graduate School will require an official paper transcript from your degree-awarding institution prior to matriculation.

- **English Language Proficiency Requirement**

All applicants must provide proof of English language proficiency (see the following table).

Admissions Requirements		
Kent State Literature	Kent State Rhetoric & Composition	University of Raparin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree from an accredited college or university • Minimum 2.750 GPA on a 4.000-point scale • Official transcript(s) • GRE scores are not required • Goal statement • Writing sample (8-15 pages) relevant to the field of study • Three letters of recommendation • English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree from an accredited college or university • Minimum 2.750 GPA on a 4.000-point scale • Official transcript(s) • GRE scores are not required • Writing sample (8-15 pages) relevant to the field of study • Goal statement • Three letters of recommendation • English language proficiency - all international students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MA & BA Grades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree from an accredited college or university • Applicant's MA grade must not be less than 70% (GPA 1.7) • Applicant's BA grade must not be less than 60%b(GPA 1.0) 2. English Language Proficiency (ELP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELP is not mandatory for application, however, it is required before the thesis final submission for the viva. • Brand 5.0 of IELTS and its equivalence from other international ELP tests is accepted, (Pearson Academic-PTE 52 ,TOEFL-iBT 414 ,TOEFL-PBT 59)

<p>language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum 587 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version) ○ Minimum 94 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version) ○ Minimum 82 MELAB score ○ Minimum 7.0 IELTS score ○ Minimum 65 PTE score ○ Minimum 130 Duolingo English Test score 	<p>must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum 610 TOEFL PBT score (paper-based version) ○ Minimum 102 TOEFL IBT score (Internet-based version) ○ Minimum 86 MELAB score ○ Minimum 7.5 IELTS score ○ Minimum 73 PTE score ○ Minimum 130 Duolingo English Test score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The countries in which the internationally recognized ELP test certificate obtained include USA, UK, Australia, Canada & New Zealand. • The date validity (eligibility) of the ELP certificate is three years. <p>3. Age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KRG permanent employees' age must not be more than 50 years. • Others are exempted from factor. <p>4. Scientific Competency Test (SCT):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must pass the SCT and gain 15 out of 30. • It is a written test. <p>5. Admission Competition & Points Accumulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competition among applicants is based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA & BA GPA • ELP • SCT • Publication & Patent • Quality Assurance
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PhD Qualifying Examination

During their final semester of coursework or the following fall/spring semester, Ph.D. students must take a pass/fail qualifying examination, consisting of the following:

- a. three four-hour written exams in three major areas of study (a literary period, a genre, and either an additional period, a major author, or a special topic approved by the student's advisory committee); and
- b. a ninety-minute oral defense of the student's written exam.

Both components of the exam are based on the three reading lists prepared under the supervision of the student's advisor and advisory committee. If any portion of the exam is not passed, the student is allowed ONE additional opportunity to pass the exam. Students will be recommended to the Graduate College for probation if they are not successful in passing the exam on the first attempt.

Ph.D. Dissertation Prospectus

All Ph.D. students must submit a dissertation in accordance with the guidelines set forth by UoR Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines. Before advancing to candidacy, doctoral students must both submit a dissertation prospectus to their advisory committee and meet with the entire committee for a prospectus

defense—ideally no later than the end of the semester following that in which the student passes Qualifying Exams. The prospectus, which is the first step in developing the dissertation, consists of three basic components:

- a brief abstract or description of topic;
- key research question(s); and
- a brief description of methodology/approach.

The prospectus should be approximately 6-12 double-spaced pages and must demonstrate that the student:

- has defined and delimited a compelling research question/thesis;
- can explain the importance of the research question/thesis and the contribution that it will make to the field;
- is familiar with the existing scholarship related to the research question and can describe the relationship/contribution of the dissertation to that scholarship;
- has identified appropriate primary materials; and
- has a workable plan for both organizing and completing the dissertation.

A prospectus is a proposal, not a draft of the introduction to the dissertation, though a prospectus may contain the kernel or outline of an introduction. Prospectuses typically include the following elements, usually in this order:

- Project overview and rationale/motive (at least 2 pages):
 - What is your central research question and/or thesis? What body of primary texts or materials will you be focusing on?
 - Why does your question/thesis matter? That is, what is your field, to what specific scholarly conversation(s) are you contributing, and how? Or what is your critical intervention?
- Chapter overviews (approximately 1 page each):
 - What is the focus and argument of each chapter and, if appropriate, of each section into which that chapter is divided?
 - How does the second chapter build on the first? the third on the second? And so on. (In other words, what's the logic behind, and payoff for, dividing and ordering the chapters this way?)
- Timeline (1 page):
 - In what manner and order and by what rough dates (or what point in each coming semester) do you expect to research, draft, and submit your chapters?
- Preliminary bibliography (including works mentioned in the overview, approximately 1-2 pages):
 - What are the key primary texts or materials your dissertation will analyze?
 - What are the scholarly secondary sources (especially critical and theoretical) that most inform your dissertation, and/or that are especially important to, or representative of, the scholarly conversation in which your dissertation intervenes?

The Dissertation Process

The dissertation process consists of seven basic steps:

- Appoint a supervisor who helps in preparing the dissertation prospectus.
- Defend prospectus and file notification of approved dissertation topic by Department of English

- scientific committee and College Council.
- Write dissertation (monthly report of progress check by the supervisor).
- Receive preliminary approval of the first draft after being sent to department's scientific committee.
- Provide documents (letter of acceptance for publication) for two articles prior to the final oral defense.
- Successfully defend the dissertation.
- File the dissertation with the university.

Four-Year Doctoral Plan

Ideally, students complete the program in four years: two years of course work, followed by two years on exams and the dissertation. The outline is as follows:

- Program Duration (3-4 years, 8 Semesters)
- Fall Semester 2023 (UoR, September to December)
- Spring Semester 2024 (KSU, January to May)
- Fall Semester 2024 (Qualifying Exam, UoR)
- Spring Semester 2025 (Prospectus writing and defense, UoR)
- Fall Semester 2025 (Thesis Writing)
- Spring Semester 2026 (Thesis Writing)
- Fall Semester 2026 (Thesis Writing)
- Semester 2027 (Thesis Writing and Defense)

PhD Program in Literature Curriculum

The doctoral major in English literature is based on a curriculum that requires course work in one of two majors: **Literary Traditions** (the historical study of British, Irish, American, minority and ethnic literatures) or **Literary Criticism and Theory** (encompassing critical theory and textual studies).

Course Work

Program Year 1: Fall Semester

Candidates will take the following courses at UoR:

- ELPhDF 501 Post Colonial Literature
- ELPhDF 502 Literary Criticism & Theory
- ELPhDF 503 Information and Communication Technology
- ELPhDF 504 Research Methods in English Higher Studies

Program Year 1: Spring Semester

Candidates take three courses from KSU recommended by KSU English Department faculty.

Program Year 2: Fall Semester

Candidates take the Qualifying Exam.

Program Year 2: Spring Semester

Candidates write and defend the prospectus.

Program Year 3 and 4

Candidates register for the dissertation and write it.

PhD Program in Rhetoric & Composition Curriculum

The doctoral major in Rhetoric and Composition is based on a curriculum that requires course work in the teaching of college writing and the role of linguistics in shaping rhetorical patterns and writing in different cultural contexts.

Course Work:

Program Year 1: Fall Semester

Candidates will take the following courses at UoR:

- ERCPhDF 501 Written Discourse Analysis
- ERCPhDF 502 Teaching Writing to EFL Learners
- ERCPhDF 503 Information and Communication Technology
- ERCPhDF 504 Research Methods in English Higher Studies

Program Year 1: Spring Semester

Candidates take three courses from KSU recommended by KSU English Department faculty.

Program Year 2: Fall Semester

Candidates take the Qualifying Exam.

Program Year 2: Spring Semester

Candidates write and defend the prospectus.

Program Year 3 and 4

Candidates register for the dissertation and write it.

UoR Student Academic Misconduct Policy

Integrity is a concern for every member of UoR academic community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UoR community, students accept the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are expected to always engage in ethical decision-making. Students enrolling in UoR PhD program assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UoR's function as an educational institution.

Honesty

Honesty is the foundation of teaching, learning, research, and service and the prerequisite for full realization of trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students and faculty alike must be honest with themselves and others.

Trust

The UoR community fosters a climate of mutual trust and encourages the free exchange of ideas. Only with trust can the public believe in the social value and meaning of an institution's scholarship and degrees.

Fairness

We strive to establish clear standards, practices, and procedures and expect fairness in the interactions of

students, faculty, and administrators. Important components of fairness are predictability, clear expectations, and a predictable and transparent process, as well as consistent and just responses.

Respect

As an academic community of integrity, we recognize the participatory nature of the learning process and honor and respect a wide range of opinions and ideas. Students and faculty must respect themselves and each other as individuals. All must show respect for the contribution of others by acknowledging their intellectual debts.

Responsibility

Every member of an academic community—each student, faculty member, and administrator—is responsible for upholding the integrity of scholarship and research. Individuals must take responsibility for their own academic honesty and must not tolerate or ignore academic dishonesty on the part of others.

Professionalism

Because students are aspiring professionals, our community expects them to exercise professional conduct during their careers as students and uphold the core value of integrity.

Academic Misconduct is any intentional or unintentional occurrence of the following:

- Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the source(s), commonly called plagiarism.
- Receiving unauthorized external assistance during an examination or any academic exercise for credit. This includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Providing or receiving aid in connection with any academic assignment;
 2. Use or possession of camera telephones, text messages, computer disks, audio recorders, calculators, solution materials, photocopies, materials from previous classes, commercial research services, or notes or other means to copy or photograph materials used or intended for academic evaluation for use during the academic evaluation or assignment;
 3. Communication in any manner with another student.
- Turning in the same work in more than one class (or when repeating a class), unless permission is received in advance from the instructor.
- Falsifying information for inclusion in an assigned paper, project, or exercise; including inventing or altering data from a laboratory or field project, or creating fictional citations for a paper.
- Attempting to influence or change any academic evaluation, assignment, or academic records for reasons having no relevance to academic achievement. This includes, but is not limited to, bribery, threats, and making unauthorized changes to any academic record.
- Falsifying or misrepresenting attendance, hours, or activities in relationship to any class, internship, externship, field experience, clinical activity, or similar activity.
- Facilitating, permitting, or tolerating any of the above-listed items.