

English Capstone Program in Research Application

Name _____

UM ID _____ Uniqname _____

Current Class Standing _____ Expected Graduation Date _____

To apply to the English Capstone Program in Research, interested students should attach the following to this application cover page:

- An **unofficial** transcript, (using a highlighter) **highlight** all completed English courses **AND** any courses taken in other departments that have had a special relevance to your literary studies
- Provide the names of two English Department faculty members who would be able to speak about your work. These should be professors with whom you have taken (or are taking) courses and preferably tenure-track faculty who regularly advise English capstone projects (i.e. Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, and Professors):

1. _____ 2. _____
- Provide the Statement of purpose (details described on page 2)

Completed applications should be emailed to JoAnne Beltran at jmbeltra@umich.edu by 5pm on the application deadlines:

Winter 2023 – Friday, February 24, 2023

You will be contacted via email once a decision has been made on your application, usually within three to four weeks.

If you have further questions about the application or the application process, please feel free to contact the Director of the Capstone Program in Research, Professor Madhumita Lahiri at mlahiri@umich.edu

Questions regarding program requirements are better directed to JoAnne Beltran at jmbeltra@umich.edu



Please include the following three items, arranged in this order, as part of your application:

1. (Describe briefly) If you plan to study abroad (when and where). If you have already studied abroad, please also briefly describe that experience.
2. A statement of purpose of no more than 800 words. This statement is a very important part of your application. Read the guidelines below carefully:
 - You should discuss, in some detail and with much specificity as possible, a possible project or research question on which you could imagine focusing. You will be unlikely to have a thesis topic in mind, but you should already have some interests in the field of English that you can enumerate and discuss. The more you show your sense of what a research question might be, the better. Should you be admitted to the program, you will not be required or expected to work in the area you have discussed in your application, though identifying a genuine interest is great! What the committee is looking for is a degree of commitment to the field and an early demonstration of your ability to define an interesting set of questions and to develop your thinking about those questions. If there is a professor you imagine you might want to work with, you might indicate as much. That professor may not at all be available to work with you, but it can be helpful for the committee to have this information on hand.
 - You should tell the committee as specifically as possible why you wish to pursue the Capstone Program in English and what you hope to get out of the program.
 - Try to avoid extended, general discussions about your love for literature. Instead, explain that love for fascination through particular examples of ideas for projects, questions you'd like to explore, or descriptions of work you've done that has been exciting to you.
 - This statement of purpose is among other things a writing sample. Proofread it carefully. Make sure that it is clear, concise and representative of your best prose style.
3. A copy (please do not submit the original) of a critical essay you have written that you feel exemplifies your best work to date. The essay should exemplify good writing and, if possible, show your ability to work through more than a close reading. If at all possible, submit an essay written for an English course. In addition to presenting an argument, this essay should contain some detailed analysis of a piece of writing. Please include the course name, course number/section and instructor's name for which you wrote the essay; specify as well when you wrote the paper.