

English Graduate Guidelines 2012-2013

**MA in English
Option in
Teaching English
as a Second Language**

**Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma**

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Graduate Studies Committee

The Graduate Studies Committee consists of a representative from each of three areas:

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Assistantships

The English Department employs a large number of graduate teaching assistants each year. Assistantships are thus available to most students who qualify for them and apply early. Depending on their levels of experience and areas of emphasis, teaching assistants may tutor in the Writing Center or teach their own sections of freshman composition, composition for international students, technical writing, creative writing, or literature.

Teaching Methodology Courses: All teaching assistants, regardless of experience, must take an appropriate pedagogy course or courses during their first year of teaching at OSU. Depending on the area of emphasis and teaching assignment, they may take:

- *ENGL 5213: Composition Theory and Pedagogy*
- *ENGL 5223: Professional Writing Theory and Pedagogy*
- *ENGL 5243: Teaching English as a Second Language*

First-year Teachers: Teaching assistants who have not previously taught English typically spend the first year of their assistantships as tutors in the Writing Center. During this year, they also take an appropriate pedagogy course (see above) and observe experienced teachers.

Course Load: Each fall and spring semester a teaching assistant teaches six credit hours (two 3-hour courses) or works twenty hours per week in the Writing Center. A few assistantships are available for students who assist with editing the *Cimarron Review* or with the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) program. Customarily, teaching assistants take no more than six to seven hours of graduate course work per semester. Some assistantships are available in the summer, during which a teaching assistant teaches three hours and takes three hours of course work.

Tuition Waivers: All students with assistantships pay in-state tuition rates; that is, the University waives the non-resident portion of their tuition. The University will also pay the remaining resident tuition for six hours of qualifying courses each fall and spring semester. In addition, teaching assistants also receive a monthly stipend during the academic year and single-person health insurance. Students are responsible for resident tuition for courses taken in excess of this limit and for all fees.

Time Limits: A teaching assistant not on strict academic probation is eligible for financial support under the following conditions. MA students receive three years of support. PhD students receive four years of support with an option for a fifth year of support. Support is contingent upon satisfactory progress toward the degree. If exceptional circumstances exist, MA and PhD students in the final

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year of financial support may petition the Head of the English Department for an additional year's support. Such cases will be judged on an individual basis and in light of Departmental policies and staffing needs.

Non-native Speakers of English: To be eligible for a teaching assistantship, students whose native language is not English must submit passing scores for the Speaking Skills section of the TOEFL iBT (26 or higher), or the Versant test (68 or higher) for their application to be considered. They must also attend the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) orientation, which is administered on campus before the beginning of each semester.

To Apply: Prospective students who wish to apply for assistantships should submit a Teaching Assistant application form with an attached résumé to the English Graduate Office. Offers of assistantships are mailed to students a week or two after offers of admission. Students who have already begun their graduate program at OSU should submit an application form to the English Graduate Office no later than March 1 for the following fall semester, or by October 15 for the spring semester. Most assistantships are awarded to recipients who apply by October 15.

Guidelines for the MA in English with an Option in TESL

The English Department at Oklahoma State University offers a comprehensive program leading to an MA in English with an option in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). The TESL program is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to teach English to non-native speakers in a variety of situations, e.g., teaching English as a foreign language in an overseas school, college, or university; teaching English as a second language to international students studying in intensive English programs in the U.S.; or teaching English to bilingual/bicultural students in American public school systems and adult education programs.

The TESL curriculum is designed to provide professional training in theoretical and applied linguistics, methods of teaching English as a second language, materials development, and second language testing. Students also participate in a supervised internship program in ESL. The elective courses are interdisciplinary in nature and are chosen by students and their advisory committees in accordance with their particular interests and needs.

The MA in English with an option in TESL consists of 30 credit hours (thesis option) or 34 credit hours (non-thesis option). In addition to these hours, students must fulfill the language requirement and pass the MA Qualifying Examination in TESL. A description of the degree requirements and regulations appears on the following pages.

Forms to File in 308 Morrill for the MA in English with TESL Option

Departmental Advisory Committee Form: by the end of the first year of graduate study

Plan of Study: before enrolling in the 18th hour

Notice of Intent to take Qualifying Exams: by the end of the second week of classes in the semester in which exams will be taken

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Thesis Prospectus (when applicable): no later than the beginning of the first semester of thesis hours

Notice of Intent to defend a Thesis (when applicable): by the end of the first three weeks of the semester in which the defense will take place

Results of Final Defense Form (when applicable): immediately following defense

Summary Checklist

By the end of the second full semester of enrollment, you should have

- chosen an adviser in your major area of study
- chosen your advisory committee
- met with your committee and discussed your plan of study
- filed your plan of study

Before taking the MA Qualifying Examination, you must have

- fulfilled the language requirement
- maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above on all graduate course work
- filed an approved plan of study with the Graduate College and English Graduate Office
- submitted an Intent to Take Qualifying Examination form to the English Graduate Office by the end of the second week of classes

Before you are eligible to graduate, you must have

- filed a Graduation Clearance form (and a revised plan of study, if applicable)
- filed a Diploma Application

If you write a thesis, you must also have

- submitted the defense copy (Final Draft) of your thesis by the Graduate College deadline
- passed your oral defense (Final Examination) and turned in the signed Results of Final Defense form to the English Graduate Office
- submitted the final copy of the thesis/dissertation in accordance with the format guidelines at <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/student/thesis>

Application and Admission

Admission to the MA program in English with an option in TESL requires a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited institution of higher learning. Other qualifications and application materials appear below. *Applicants should be mindful that meeting the minimum standards for admission does not guarantee admission.*

Admission Qualifications and Application Materials

GPA	Applicants must have maintained an overall undergraduate grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
Language	Applicants must have six credit hours of course work in a language other than English with grades of "B" or better. Applicants who do not meet this requirement must complete two semesters of language work, receiving grades of "B" or better, prior to taking the qualifying exams. Non-native speakers of English are exempt from this requirement but may be required to take an advanced-level ESL course, depending on the results of the University's Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) for international students.
Recommendations	Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation.
Statement of Purpose	Applicants must submit a written statement of approximately 250 words that identifies a proposed area of study, reasons for undertaking graduate study in this area, relevant work experience, and future career plans.
Writing Sample or GRE Scores	Applicants must submit one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing Sample: a 7- to 15-page paper recently written in an upper-level seminar in English or a related area of study.• GRE general and subject area scores.
English Language Proficiency (non-native speakers)	Applicants who are not native speakers of English must submit current scores from one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TOEFL iBT• TOEFL and TWE• IELTS Please see the English Department website for current score requirements. A non-native speaker must have an undergraduate concentration in English or a related field.

Students are admitted to the MA program with an option in TESL. If a student wishes to move from this one area of specialization to another, the student must submit an application to and receive approval for that change from the Admissions Committee. The application must include a new statement of purpose and a new writing sample, which will be considered along with the rest of the student's graduate file. Since this application will be an internal English

Department matter, students will not pay an application fee. If the Admissions Committee does *not* grant the request, the student will have the opportunity to continue in the TESL option.

If a student wishes to move from one degree program into another degree program, the student must submit a new application through the Graduate College.

Teacher Certification Disclaimer

The MA in English with an option in TESL does not carry with it certification for public school employment. Students wishing such certification must meet special state and university requirements.

Graduate College Rules and Regulations

There are many rules and regulations affecting graduate enrollment, tenure, examinations, theses, and dissertations that are made by the Graduate Faculty of the University rather than the English Department. Among the rules students should familiarize themselves with are those governing academic dishonesty or misconduct, especially those dealing with plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become informed about all English Department, Graduate College, and University regulations.

The *Oklahoma State University Catalog* should be read closely by all those who are thinking about, or participating in, graduate studies in English at Oklahoma State University. Free copies are available free to all incoming graduate students at the Graduate College, 202 Whitehurst, or online at:

<http://www.okstate.edu/registrar>.

Adviser and Advisory Committee

All graduate students select an individual adviser and an advisory committee to guide them in completing their degrees.

Adviser. Students should choose an adviser by the end of their first semester of course work, but if this is not possible, students should select an adviser by the end of their first year of graduate study. The adviser may be any member of the English Department graduate faculty who specializes in TESL. At the Tulsa campus, the coordinator of the TESL program at OSU-Tulsa normally serves as the adviser.

Advisory Committee. The advisory committee will normally consist of the student's major adviser as committee chair and at least two additional members of the English graduate faculty.

Changes. To change an adviser or advisory committee, a student must complete a Committee Change Request form, to be signed by all committee members and the Graduate Director, and submitted to the Graduate College.

Plan of Study

A plan of study is a listing of course work the student intends to take for completion of the degree and an estimated time schedule. The student must develop the plan with his/her adviser and advisory committee. The Graduate College requires MA students to file a plan of study with the Graduate College before completing the 17th hour of graduate credit.

Students may download a plan of study form and instructions from the English Graduate Forms web page or the Graduate College downloads page. The student should consult with his/her adviser to complete a draft version of the form.

Planning Meeting: Prior to enrolling in the 18th hour of graduate study, students should schedule a meeting with their advisory committee. During that meeting, the student and advisory committee will discuss the student's preparation, professional goals, and plans for graduate study. The student and committee should agree upon

- A plan of study
- Fulfillment of the language requirement
- Tentative plans for the MA Qualifying Examination
- Tentative plans for the thesis or creative component

Creative Component: The course used as a creative component must be designated with an asterisk on the plan of study.

Submitting the Plan of Study: The student will finalize the typed version of the plan, obtain signatures from all members of the advisory committee, and file the signed form with the English Graduate Office. The Graduate Director will review and sign the form, and file the completed form with the Graduate College. **The signed plan must be filed with the Graduate College before the student will be allowed to enroll in the 18th hour of graduate study.**

Changes: Changes to the plan of study can be made with the approval of the advisory committee. A revised plan should be submitted to the Graduate College at the beginning of the intended semester of graduation. Students make revisions on a copy of the approved plan stamped by the Graduate College. Specific instructions are included with the downloaded plan of study file.

Ten-Year Rule: A final plan of study may not include any course more than ten years old at the time of actual graduation.

Checklist for Submitting a Plan of Study

- Minimum of 30 hours for thesis option, or 34 hours for non-thesis option, beyond baccalaureate degree
- Minimum of 16 hours in English
- At least 21 hours of course work at the 5000 or 6000 level at OSU
- All courses, including 4000-level, must be taken for graduate credit
- No more than 9 hours of course work taken as special student or transferred from another institution
- No course work may be used to complete requirements for another degree
- The plan of study must be signed by the adviser, committee members, and the Graduate Director

Course Requirements

The MA in English with an option in TESL offers two course requirement plans: thesis and non-thesis. The following requirements govern these options.

Thesis Plan: Students take 30 semester hours, including six credit hours of thesis.

Non-thesis Plan: Students take 34 semester hours, including a one-credit hour Independent Study course. They write a creative component, an article-length paper or research project, as part of this course.

Required Courses: Regardless of whether they opt for the thesis or non-thesis approach, TESL students are expected to complete 18 semester hours of required course work and to fulfill total hour requirements from among the elective courses available. The proposed program of work is planned in consultation with the student's advisory committee.

Required Courses (18 hours)

TESL Core Courses

- ENGL 5243** Teaching English as a Second Language
- ENGL 5313** Internship in TESL
- ENGL 5333** Seminar in TESL: Second Language Testing

Linguistics Core Courses

- ENGL 5123** Approaches to Language Acquisition
- ENGL 5130** Studies in English Grammar
- ENGL 5143** Descriptive Linguistics

Creative Component and/or Thesis

- ENGL 5210** Directed Study (one credit hour)
- ENGL 5000** Thesis (six credit hours)

Sample Electives

15 credits with creative component, or 6 credits with thesis

Languages and Linguistics

- ENGL 4003** History of the English Language
- ENGL 4093** Language in America
- ENGL 5133** Phonetics and Phonology
- ENGL 5140** Seminar in Linguistics (various topics)
- ENGL 5153** Syntax
- ENGL 5173** Sociolinguistics
- ENGL 6410** Topics in Linguistics (various topics)
- PSYC 6393** Psychology of Language

Teaching Methodology

- ENGL 5013** Introduction to Graduate Studies (TESL)
- ENGL 5120** Studies in TESL (various topics)
- ENGL 5213** Content/Methods for Teaching Composition
- ENGL 5223** Teaching Technical and Business Writing
- ENGL 6420** Topics in Second Language Acquisition (various topics)
- EDTC 5103** Advanced Computing Applications in Education
- EDLE 5313** Characteristics of Adult Learners
- CIED 5143** Language Arts in the Curriculum

Cultural Studies

- ANTH 5243** Globalization and Culture
- PSYC 6393** Psychology of Language
- SOC 5273** Qualitative Research Methods
- ENGL xxxx** Any literature course approved for graduate credit (only one course allowed)

Courses other than those listed may be taken as electives if approved by the advisory committee.

Methods Course for Teaching Assistants: Teaching assistants must take an appropriate pedagogy course or courses in their first semester of teaching at Oklahoma State University. These hours may be counted as part of the total hours of course work.

Required Hours at 5000/6000 Level: All MA students must complete at least 21 hours of course work at the 5000/6000 level; this 21 hours of course work may include six hours of credit for work on the thesis.

ENGL 5990: *ENGL 5990: Special Problems* limits enrollment (with permission from the Graduate Director) to students who elect the creative component rather than the thesis. The use of *ENGL 5990* is restricted to students who have completed course work and need to enroll in one or two hours in order to fulfill enrollment requirements.

4000-Level Courses: Only those 4000-level courses marked by an asterisk in the *University Catalog* are available for graduate credit. All graduate course work should include a research paper or other appropriate project. In the instance of a 4000-level course that may not require such a paper or project, the student should, with the consent of the instructor involved, arrange for such a paper or project to supplement the assigned work. The English Department strongly suggests that all graduate courses be at the 5000/6000 level.

Transfer Hours: Students may transfer up to nine graduate hours from another university granting a master's degree in English. A student's advisory committee shall determine the number of hours of transfer credit to be awarded. If a student uses the hours for a degree at the previous institution, the hours are not applicable to the MA degree at OSU.

Independent Study: Independent Study courses may be occasionally arranged with an instructor when no regular graduate course on the desired topic is available during the student's expected tenure. Each of the two course numbers (*ENGL 5210* and *6210*) may be used for up to six credit hours per semester, and no more than nine hours total per course number. All students requesting an Independent Study course must hold a meeting with their advisory committee and receive approval by the Departmental members of the committee. Special forms must be used by those who wish to enroll in such courses. Available from the English Graduate Office, these forms should be submitted no later than the end of the first week of graduate enrollment prior to the semester in which the Independent Study course is taken. A student who has completed the 17th graduate credit hour in a degree program but who does not have an approved plan of study on file in the Graduate College may not arrange an Independent Study course.

The Graduate Studies Committee will evaluate applications for Independent Study in accordance with the following criteria and procedure:

1. Has the student's advisory committee approved the course?
2. Has the student taken regularly offered courses related to the subject?
3. Is the Independent Study unlikely to have a negative impact on enrollment in concurrent or immediately subsequent course offerings?
4. Does the Independent Study fill a gap in the student's curriculum? Or is the specific course content unlikely to be offered during the student's expected tenure?
5. Are the text materials clearly listed?
6. Is the work appropriate for the number of credit hours requested?
7. Is the list of assignments and percentages awarded to each clearly explained?
8. Is the schedule of conferences sufficiently specific?

If all eight questions may be answered affirmatively, the Graduate Director will send a written notice of acceptance to the proposed instructor, who will then inform the student.

If one or more questions cannot be answered affirmatively, the Graduate Director will contact the proposed instructor in an effort to clarify and/or resolve the problem(s). If no resolution can be reached, the Graduate Director will inform the proposed instructor of the denial and the reason(s) for the denial in writing. The proposed instructor will then inform the student.

End-of-Semester Evaluations: All graduate students will be evaluated in writing at the end of each semester by the professors with whom they have taken courses. These evaluations are kept on file in the English Graduate Office and are available for students to read.

Grade of "Incomplete": The following regulations apply to students who receive what at OSU is termed the "composite incomplete" grade ("IB," "IC," "ID," or "IF") for any of their course work within the English Department:

- Students must complete course work within one calendar year, after which time the preliminary grade (expressed by the second letter of the composite) becomes permanent in accordance with University policy. Individual faculty members, however, may establish a shorter time limit for completing course work. Faculty will identify time limits in the "remarks" dropdown of the electronic grade sheet.
- Teaching assistants or associates having more than three incomplete grades on their records will not be recommended for reappointment.
- Teaching assistants or associates having any incomplete grades on their records will not be recommended for summer employment.

Students should familiarize themselves with Section 6.2 of the University Academic Regulations found in the *University Catalog* for a full explanation of University policy governing incomplete grades.

Language Requirement

TESL students must complete six credit hours of course work in a language other than English with grades of "B" or better. Students who have not met this requirement at the time of admission must complete two semesters of language course work, receiving grades of "B" or better, prior to taking the MA Qualifying Examination. Non-native speakers of English are exempt from this requirement but may be required to take an advanced-level ESL course, depending on the results of the University's Test of English Language Proficiency (TELP) for international students.

MA Qualifying Examination in TESL

MA students in TESL take one five-hour qualifying examination that is administered on a single day. It is given each September and February on the fifth Saturday of the semester. Students must submit a signed Notice of Intent to take the examination by the end of the second week of classes and must take the exams on the Stillwater campus. No exams are offered during the summer.

Prerequisites: In order to take the MA Qualifying Examination, students must

- have fulfilled the language requirement.
- have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate work taken beyond the baccalaureate degree. Grades received for courses used to satisfy the language requirement are not included in computing the minimum grade point average. All courses carrying graduate credit, including transfer hours on the approved plan of study, will be calculated in this grade point average.
- have an approved plan of study on file with the Graduate College and with the English Graduate Office.
- submit an "Intent to Take Qualifying Examination" form to the English Graduate Office by the end of the second week of classes.

Exam Areas: The MA Qualifying Examination in TESL contains *two* questions in each of the following *five* areas.

- Second Language Acquisition
- Pedagogy
- Applied Linguistics
- Grammar
- ESL Testing

Students must respond to *one* question in each of the five areas.

Copies of past exams and reading lists covering the five areas are available from the English Graduate Office.

Evaluation: Each question will be evaluated by three readers from the specific subject area covered by that section of the exam. Student anonymity will be maintained. If a student answers two questions in a single area, the readers in that area will evaluate each question separately. All readers evaluate exam questions individually before meeting as a committee to discuss student performances and provide a rating of "Pass with Distinction," "Pass," "Pass/Terminal MA," or "Fail" for each question. To be eligible for the MA in English with an option in TESL, students must pass all five areas.

Notification of Results: The Graduate Director will notify students of the results of their exams no later than five weeks after they were taken. The English Graduate Office will mail the results to the student's home address with a copy sent to the student's adviser.

Retakes: Students may take the exams only twice. Students who fail one or more questions will retake only the areas that they failed.

Appeals: Normally, a second failure on any TESL Qualifying Exam will result in termination of the student's work toward the degree. However, when course work has been of exceptionally high quality, a student may, after a second failure, petition the Graduate Studies Committee for permission to take the exam a third and final time. In order to petition, the student must have a grade point average of 3.50 or higher in graduate courses taken at OSU. In addition, the student's petition must be supported by favorable end-of-semester evaluations from at least three professors.

Thesis (optional)

Should the student choose to write a thesis, the thesis is expected to be a substantial research project on a topic related to teaching English as a second language, bilingual education, second language acquisition, second language testing, or applied linguistics; it may be based on experimental research, may deal with a theoretical problem, or may have a pedagogical thrust. The thesis director should be a member of the TESL graduate faculty of the English Department.

Thesis Committee: Unless a student requests a change, the advisory committee serves as the thesis committee. Once constituted, a thesis committee may not be changed except for serious reasons stated in writing to the Graduate Director and then approved by the Graduate College.

Prospectus: MA candidates writing a thesis should submit a prospectus (approximately 1000 words) no later than the beginning of the first semester they register for thesis hours. The prospectus must be approved by the candidate's committee. Committee members must be notified in writing if an approved prospectus differs significantly from the submitted thesis (if, for example, the topic of the thesis changes, the authors or texts to be treated are altered, or the number or character of the chapters changes). Students must provide a copy of the approved prospectus to the Graduate Director.

Reading Procedure: At the time that the prospectus is approved, the candidate and the committee members should agree upon the reading procedure for the individual chapters. Matters to be discussed in reaching this agreement might include which chapters each member of the committee needs to see as they are completed by the candidate; whether individual committee members wish to see the chapters serially or all at once; and how much time committee members will need to finish reading a chapter or the entire thesis. Under no circumstances should a completed thesis be submitted to any committee member for reading fewer than *two weeks* before the defense.

Deadlines: Students submitting theses must adhere to deadlines established by the Graduate College and by the English Department.

Style: The student must write the thesis according to the guidelines in the current *Graduate College Style Manual*, available from the Graduate College or at: <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/student/thesis/default.html>. In addition, students should follow the guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Defense Copy (Final Draft). The defense copy of the thesis that is defended should contain all of the chapters in a completed form and full documentation.

Final Copy: If as a result of the defense, revisions to the thesis are required, committee members will not sign the thesis until they are satisfied with the revisions.

Final Examination: Thesis Defense (optional)

A thesis defense will consist of a public, oral examination by the thesis committee. It will be no less than 45 minutes, but in many instances, it will be longer. The thesis defense occurs after the student has submitted a complete draft of the thesis to all committee members.

Intent to Defend Form: Candidates will file a nonbinding Intent to Defend form with the Graduate Director within the first three weeks of the semester in

which they expect to defend the thesis. Each member of the committee will sign this form before it is filed with the Graduate Director. If a student does not defend in the semester when the Intent to Defend form is filed, he or she should resubmit the form when he or she is prepared to defend.

Scheduling of Oral Defense: Under no circumstances should a completed thesis be submitted to any committee member for reading fewer than *two weeks* before the defense. The English Graduate Office must be notified no less than two weeks before the oral defense of the day, time, and location of the defense, and the title of the thesis. *No thesis defense will be held during the summer.*

Student Tenure

Students must complete all requirements within seven years from their first enrollment in courses for the MA program.

Length of Financial Support for Teaching Assistants

A teaching assistant who has not been placed on strict academic probation and who is making satisfactory progress toward the degree is eligible for financial support for a maximum of three years. A student who obtains an MA in English at OSU and then enters the PhD program is eligible for an additional four years of support.

If exceptional circumstances warrant, a student in the final year of financial support may petition the Head of the English Department for an additional year's support. Such exceptional cases will be judged on an individual basis and in light of Departmental policies and staffing needs.

Ineligibility for the MA Degree

The Graduate Director may upon proper cause declare that a student is ineligible for a degree from the English Department at Oklahoma State University. Upon determining that such cause exists, the Graduate Director will immediately notify the student's adviser, who will discuss the matter with the student and respond to the Graduate Director within fifteen working days. Should the Graduate Director still believe that proper cause exists, he or she will write a letter to the student indicating the reasons for the decision. The student may then appeal to the Graduate Studies Committee within ten working days for a hearing.

The Graduate Studies Committee will review the appeal and report its findings to the Graduate Director, who will notify the student. The student may then

appeal that decision to the full Graduate Faculty of the English Department. The decision of that group shall end Departmental appeals.

Appeals and Petitions

All appeals involving grades or charges of academic dishonesty or misconduct must be directed to the OSU Academic Appeals Board. Contact the Provost's office (101 Whitehurst) for information and forms.

Petitions involving teaching assistantships must be directed to the Department Head.

All other petitions or appeals must be directed in writing to the Graduate Director, who will then forward the petition to the appropriate body, usually one of the following: the Graduate Studies Committee (for special requests as described within the *English Graduate Guidelines*), the English Graduate Faculty (for exceptions to English Department policy), or the Graduate Council (for exceptions to OSU policy). Students are urged to discuss matters with their advisers and with the Graduate Director before making a formal petition or appeal.

If the Graduate Director does not act upon the student's written request within a reasonable amount of time, the student and/or adviser may appeal directly to the Department Head. If a student has exhausted all appeals procedures within the Department and is still not able to resolve the problem, he or she may appeal to the Graduate College.