2. Master of Arts Degree

The Vanderbilt English Department does not typically offer a terminal M.A. degree.* Students earn an M.A. en route to the Ph.D. Full-time doctoral students must complete all requirements for the M.A. by the end of the summer of their second year (see Graduate School for deadlines and forms) to be eligible to continue on in the program.

First-year graduate students register for classes with the advice and consent of the DGS and an initial faculty advisor, who will be appointed by the DGS. This advisor will make early plans with the student about course selection, language study, long and short range preparation for the comprehensive and oral examinations, and the dissertation.

*M.A. Thesis*: Under the direction of a thesis supervisor, a first-year student will rewrite a paper from a first-year course as an article suitable for submission to a scholarly journal. The article does not have to be accepted for publication, but it does need to be professional enough to be ready, in the opinion of the supervisor, for submission. Students should consult with the Graduate School about thesis formatting and regulations. The thesis is due to the DGS's office by June 15.

At the end of their second year, the Graduate Studies Committee will review the work of the second year students (the thesis, course work, and faculty evaluations) to determine whether to recommend to the faculty that they continue toward the Ph.D.

* In cases where an exception is warranted, the Graduate Studies Committee may decide to admit a qualified candidate to two-year MA. This course of study requires a full course load (52 credit hours), a master’s thesis, and full external funding.