M.A. in Passing (Direct Admission Ph.D. Students)

Students admitted to the program without a previously earned MA will earn an ‘MA in passing’ consisting of a rigorous research paper. Students are urged to begin thinking about their research topic as they progress through their coursework.

Students completing the M.A. in passing paper should know the following:

1. This requirement must be met by the completion of 33 hours of coursework.

2. The M.A. in passing research paper should be a research paper presenting original research, extended and enhanced to meet the standards of a conference paper presentation. These standards include a statement of the problem, questions or hypotheses raised by the problem, and original research on that problem and relevant questions. Conference papers are normally 20 to 40 pages in length and should address an important problem, reflect knowledge of the relevant literature as it pertains to the questions, and provide preliminary answers based on competent research to the questions raised by the problem.

3. The paper must be approved by a committee composed of the advisor and one additional faculty member. The committee is to be approved by the departmental Director of Graduate Studies. This paper will serve as an indicator of students’ probability of success in the Ph.D. program and will be used in the Second Year Review process.