LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Both MA and PhD students must demonstrate competency in a minimum of one language. They can do so by
- earning an B in both Old English and Beowulf
- earning a B in a graduate reading course
- passing a translation exam (to be scheduled by the student in consultation with the graduate director)
- earning a B or better in a 300-level (or above) undergraduate literature course taught in the language (within the last five years)
- earning a B or better in 12 hours of undergraduate language coursework completed no more than four years prior to entering the program.

ALTERNATIVE COMPETENCY

Students can petition to fulfill an alternative competency requirement in place of the language requirement. Competencies could include, but are not limited to:
- any one of a number of digital/technological skills, tools, or languages
- paleography or similar training
- analytic bibliography
- ethnography
- statistics
- any disciplinary training (other than English) that a student might need for dissertation work

Students must declare a plan for completing the requirement (either language or competency) no later than the first year review for doctoral students, and no later than the end of the first year for MA students.

Students should seek advice from a committee chair or other faculty on mentor on what language or competency will best prepare the student for future research, writing, and teaching.

After consultation with the committee chair or other faculty members, students wishing to propose an alternative competency must submit a petition to the Graduate Director, endorsed by the committee chair, no later than the end of the fourth semester for doctoral students and no later than the beginning of the third semester for MA students. Petitions must detail how the student plans to fulfill the competency requirement, how the student's performance will be evaluated and by whom, and what a date on which the requirement will be complete.

Language and competency requirements should be completed by the end of the third year for doctoral students and before scheduling the final exam for MA students.

Students should consider applying for professional development funds to help cover the cost of fulfilling either the language or alternative competency requirement.