

## English

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The English liberal arts curriculum is designed to provide intensive study in literature, language, and writing. The department also offers a professional track in secondary education, as well as minors in English and creative writing. Any of these programs can be meaningfully combined with majors or minors in such fields as history, international studies, psychology, marketing, modern languages, philosophy, professional writing, elementary or early childhood education, and education of the deaf and hard of hearing.

The English program offers a broad range of courses in literature, language, film, and creative writing, allowing students to design programs appropriate to their goals and interests. The English major is excellent preparation for careers in public relations, law, management, teaching, or any occupation that requires verbal skills. It is also one of the best preparations for graduate and professional schools, and many of our students go on to advanced study at universities across the country.

### **Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards**

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for English programs. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses.

#### **For students in English: Liberal Arts and English: Secondary Education program**

- Retention in the program is based on the following performance standard in three critical content courses: LIT 200/ Introduction to Poetry (C); LIT 201/Approaches to Literature (C); LIT 202/Cultures and Canons (C). Students must make consistent progress in the major. Specifically, any student not registered for major classes for two consecutive semesters will be dismissed, unless the student has completed the major, the student is enrolled in Clinical I and II for the Education major, or there are extenuating circumstances.
- Students wishing to transfer into any English Department program from another program within the College (including another English Department program, such as from English to English Secondary Education) are required to submit a change-of-major form by the date established on the Academic Calendar for the year.
- Graduation requirements: all English Department and correlate courses (C-).

### **Transfer Credit**

Each student is required to complete at least seven of the eleven courses for the English degree at the College.

**English Major Learning Goals**

Upon completion of the English Liberal Arts major,

1. students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with a range of critical, generic, and literary traditions (including recent theoretical approaches) that shape – and are shaped by – literary discourses and texts of particular periods or movements.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. range/breadth of reading,
  - b. literary history,
  - c. genre.
2. students will be able to describe the effects of social constructions of identity on a particular literary text and on current debates over aesthetic value, universality, and canonicity.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. constructions of canonicity,
  - b. categories of difference,
  - c. disciplinary politics.
3. students will be able to identify historically specific elements relevant to a particular text.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. historicism
  - b. cultural studies.
4. students will be able to read a literary work and characterize its main aesthetic, structural, and rhetorical strategies in an argumentative, thesis-driven essay or in a writing workshop.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. close reading,
  - b. literary interpretation/analysis,
  - c. thesis-driven writing or work-shopping.
5. students will be able to write a substantial essay of literary scholarship that is theoretically informed and engages with current research and criticism in relevant fields of study, asserting their own critical voice in ongoing dialogues and debates.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. theory/methodology,
  - b. research,
  - c. integration of secondary sources,
  - d. depth/scope of writing/analysis,
  - e. intellectual independence.

In addition, upon completion of the double/dual English and Education Majors,

6. students will be able to analyze a written or spoken text linguistically and describe its use of language.  
key concepts/skills:
  - a. English language conventions and grammar systems,
  - b. language acquisition,
  - c. English language history,
  - d. Socio-linguistics (dialect, discourse analysis, etc.).

**The following program requirements apply to students entering the program beginning in the fall of 2009. Students enrolled before that will follow the program for the year they entered the College.**

**English Major: Liberal Arts**

- Three critical content courses to be taken in the freshman or sophomore year:
 

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| LIT200/Introduction to Poetry   | 1 course unit |
| LIT201/Approaches to Literature | 1 course unit |
| LIT202/Cultures and Canons      | 1 course unit |
- Three courses from the department's offerings in literary history. At least one of these courses must focus on literature before the Restoration. See the department [website](#) or newsletter for the list of approved courses.
- Three additional English options (selected from LIT, LNG, and/or CWR courses, and others by advisement).
- Two Seminars (LIT 499/Seminar in Research and Theory), typically one in the junior and one in the senior year. LIT 497/Seminar in Critical Theory OR LIT 476/477/Honors Project in English may substitute for one LIT 499.
- Only six courses at the 200 level (and none below the 200 level) will apply to the English major.

**Total for major**

**11 course units**

**Suggested First-Year Sequence (English: Liberal Arts)**

|     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| FSP | First Seminar (Fall Semester)                  | 1 course unit  |
| LIT | 99/ English Department Orientation Seminar     | 0 course units |
| LIT | 200/Introduction to Poetry (Fall Semester)     | 1 course unit  |
| LIT | 201/Approaches to Literature (Spring Semester) | 1 course unit  |
| LIT | literary history, or LIT/CWR/LNG option        | 1 course unit  |
|     | Liberal Learning *                             | 1 course unit  |
|     | Liberal Learning *                             | 1 course unit  |
|     | Liberal Learning                               | 1 course unit  |
|     | Liberal Learning (or WRI 102, if required)     | 1 course unit  |

\*It is recommended that students not exempted from the foreign language requirement take courses to meet that requirement. Note: *Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 (offered annually); are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

**English Major: Secondary Education**

An overview of the entire secondary-level teacher preparation sequence for students can be found in the section of this bulletin for the Department of Education Administration and Secondary Education.

Students planning to teach secondary-level English should consult with advisors in both English and secondary education in planning their academic program. These plans should take into account requirements for: the major, liberal learning, professional courses, and state certification.

To enroll in Clinical 1 (EED 390, SED 399, and RAL 328) teacher candidates must have a CGPA of 3.0 and met the Basic Skills requirement by achieving the minimum required score on the SAT, ACT, or PRAXIS Core. Additionally, they must have earned a B- in EFN 299, SED 224, and SPE 103. Teacher candidates must also earn a B- in EED 380 and it is recommended that this course be taken prior to Clinical 1. If teacher candidates have a GPA between 2.75 and 3.0, they must obtain special permission from the chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Secondary Education to enroll in Clinical 1.

To enroll in Clinical 2/Student Teaching, all teacher candidates must have achieved a minimum B- grade in all three Clinical 1 courses and have *taken* the PRAXIS II subject text. All teacher candidates must achieve a minimum grade of B- in EED 490 and SED 498.

For certification, teacher candidates must have a 3.00 or higher cumulative grade point average and achieve the minimum passing score on their EdTPA portfolio to meet the final program requirements for their teacher education program. They also must meet the state hygiene/physiology requirement, and the state Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Prevention (HIB) training certificate requirement.

Teacher-education candidates will receive a “certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” which requires a candidate to be provisionally certified for his or her first year of teaching. After one year of successful teaching, the candidate is eligible for a permanent certificate.

**English majors whose first major is Elementary, Early Childhood, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, or Special Education must complete the requirements for the English: Secondary Education program.**

**English Major: Secondary Education**

- Three critical content courses to be taken in the freshman or sophomore year:
 

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| LIT 200/Introduction to Poetry   | 1 course unit |
| LIT 201/Approaches to Literature | 1 course unit |
| LIT 202/Cultures and Canons      | 1 course unit |
- One course in linguistics:
 

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| LNG 201/Introduction to the English Language <i>or</i>         |               |
| LNG202/Structure and History of the English Language <i>or</i> |               |
| WLC215/Introduction to Linguistics                             | 1 course unit |

- Three courses from the department's offerings in literary history. At least one of these courses must focus on literature before the Restoration. See the department website or newsletter for the list of approved courses. 3 course units
- Two additional English options (LIT, LNG, and/or CWR) 2 course units
- Two Seminars (LIT 499/Seminar in Research and Theory), one in the junior and one in the senior year.  
LIT 497/Seminar in Critical Theory  
OR LIT 476/477/Honors Project in English  
may substitute for one LIT 499. 2 course units

Only six courses at the 200 level (and none below the 200 level) will apply to the English major.

For English: Secondary Education majors only, among the courses in literary history and the additional English options, one course must be in American or U.S. literature, one in British literature, and one in world literature, from lists approved by the department.

#### **Suggested First-Year Sequence (English: Secondary Education)**

|  |  |               |
|--|--|---------------|
| FSP  | First Seminar Fall Semester)                                 | 1 course unit |
| LIT  | 200/Introduction to Poetry (Fall Semester)                   | 1 course unit |
| LIT  | 201/Approaches to Literature (Spring Semester)               | 1 course unit |
| LNG  | 201/Intro to Engl Lang or 202/Structure & History or WLC 215 | 1 course unit |
| Liberal Learning *                             |  | 1 course unit |
| Liberal Learning *                             |  | 1 course unit |
| Liberal Learning                               |  | 1 course unit |
| Liberal Learning (or WRI 102, if not exempted) |  | 1 course unit |

\*It is recommended that students not exempted from the foreign language requirement take courses to meet that requirement.

*Note: Arabic 151 and 152, Chinese 151 and 152, Japanese 151 and 152, and Russian 151 and 152 are intensive courses and carry two course units of credit each. Students should take this into account when planning a normal four-course semester.*

All education students--Secondary, Elementary, Early Childhood, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, and Special Education--must complete their English major requirements as well as the required professional courses.

Students should consult the Department of Educational Administration and Secondary Education for additional programmatic requirements.

When planning their academic program, students should consult with their advisors in *both* departments. These plans should take into account requirements for the major, liberal learning, professional courses, and state certification.

### **Five-Year MA for English: Liberal Arts and English: Secondary Education**

The Department of English also offers a 5-year program leading to both BA and MA degrees for students majoring in English: Liberal Arts or English: Secondary Education. This accelerated program will offer candidates the opportunity to graduate in 5 years with a BA in English—including Secondary Teaching Certification in English (grades 6-12), for English: Secondary Education majors—and an MA in English. Enrolled students will benefit in many ways: with 10 graduate seminars, they will possess far more core content knowledge about literature, literary theory, and language; and with a graduate degree, they will be more competitive in local, regional, and national job markets. With just one extra year of study, future teachers can market themselves as “highly qualified” secondary school teachers of English and Language Arts.

### **Minors in English**

#### **English Liberal Arts Minor**

The English minor is designed to offer students an opportunity to explore literature written in English (including translations from other languages). Students may complement literature courses with creative writing and/or English language courses.

#### **Required course:**

Any of the following: LIT 200/Introduction to Poetry, LIT 201/Approaches to literature, LIT 202/Cultures and Canons

Two options in LIT, LNG, or CWR – 200-level or above

Two options in LIT, LNG, or CWR – 300-level or above

#### **Total**

**5 course units**

*See also: Comparative Literature Minor*

*Creative Writing Minor*

*Integrated Performing Arts Minor*

*Linguistics Minor*

#### **Departmental Honors in English**

**2 course units**

**LIT 476 (1 course unit), taken in two consecutive semesters, or**

**LIT 477 (2 course units)/Honors in English, taken in the fall semester**

**LIT 499 is a prerequisite for LIT 476 or 477.**

### Eligibility for Departmental Honors

Departmental Honors is open to any English major with a GPA in English Department courses of at least 3.5. Exceptions to the minimum GPA requirement may be made by application to the Associate Chair of the Department. Students must have junior standing and have successfully completed one section of LIT 499 before starting an Honors Project. Past theses have generally fallen in the range of 50-75 pages, excluding bibliography or other attachments.

### The Honors Project

For most students the Honors Project will be a multi-chapter critical thesis. The thesis is expected to be a major project that makes an original critical argument, includes a review of relevant scholarship, and is firmly grounded in the appropriate theoretical frameworks.

### Units and Place in the Major

All Honors Projects are for two course units. It is strongly recommended that students complete the project over two consecutive semesters, taking one unit of LIT 476 each semester. (Under no circumstances may a winter or summer session be substituted for a regular semester.) However, students may complete the project in one semester (fall semester only) by enrolling in LIT 477, which counts as two units.

Students completing an Honors Project are exempted from taking their second LIT 499, Seminar in Research and Theory. The first unit of Honors Project counts as an English elective.

### Project Approval

Proposals for Honors Projects must be submitted to the Associate Chair for the Honors Committee the semester before the project is to begin. Every proposal must have a faculty sponsor before the proposal is submitted.

The Honors Committee, which changes membership every semester, consists of all English Department faculty who are currently supervising an Honors Project. In any semester in which fewer than three faculty members are supervising projects, the Associate Chair will appoint members as needed for the minimum of three.

### Project Presentation

All Honors Projects must be presented publicly. Students have three options: presentation at the Celebration of Student Achievement; a presentation sponsored by Sigma Tau Delta; or a presentation to the Honors Committee.

### Project Evaluation

Honors Projects will be evaluated by at least three members of the Honors Committee, one of whom may be the student's sponsor. The Committee will award grades of Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors, or may deem a project not deserving of honors. The evaluation will be based on the written Honors Project, and not on its presentation. The student's sponsor will determine the grade for the course, which is independent of the decision of the Honors Committee.

### Timeline and Policies

Each semester, prior to the registration period, the Associate Chair will make the application form and information available to all English majors.

Applications for Honors Projects will be due on the final day of classes of the spring semester for projects that will begin the following fall, and on the final day of classes of the fall semester for projects that will begin the following spring. Honors Projects are occasionally approved for one semester only (2 units), and these applications are due on the final day of classes of the spring semester for fall semester registration.

The application will consist of the completed Honors Project Contract (signed by the student and the faculty sponsor) along with a project proposal of approximately 2-3 pages, double-spaced. The proposal should be titled and have three sections.

1. Introduction and Thesis: Briefly introduce your topic and clearly state your working thesis/critical argument.
2. Critical Context and Methodology: Situate your project in the existing critical literature on your subject. Suggest what new contributions you may make. Explain your critical/theoretical/methodological approaches. All works cited in this and other sections should be in an appended "Works Cited" page, using MLA format.
3. Chapter outline, Timeline and Plan of Work: Describe your intended process. Indicate the stages of your intended work, providing a timeline of anticipated points of completion (for example: Nov.1, Rough Draft of Thesis Introduction).

The Honors Committee will meet at the end of the spring semester to review proposals. At that time, the committee may take any of three actions: approve the project as proposed; grant the project provisional approval while stipulating specific changes in the project and requesting the candidate submit a revised proposal; or reject the proposal.

Any student whose proposal is rejected will have the right to submit a revised proposal within 30 days, at which point the committee may take any of the three actions above. If the proposal is rejected a second time, the student cannot submit another revision.

Once the applicant's honors thesis application is approved, he or she may register by submitting the department's independent study form to the Office of Records and Registration. In doing so, students should be sure to fill in the appropriate course number.

At the end of the first semester of LIT 476, each honors candidate will be required to submit to the Associate Chair for the Honors Committee a progress report including a writing sample of the work in progress. The writing sample usually consists of one completed chapter. At that time, the committee will either give approval for the candidate to go forward and complete the honors project or request that the candidate withdraw from the honors project. In case of the latter, the candidate's registration for the first semester will be converted to an independent study and will be graded accordingly; if the student earns a C- or higher, the course will still count as an English elective. The student will then be required to complete his or her second LIT 499 in place of the second semester of LIT 476.

Soon after fall/spring break, honors candidates should contact the Associate Chair to discuss possible venues for oral presentations of the Honors Project.

The completed written Honors Thesis will be due to the Associate Chair for the Honors Committee exactly two weeks before the last day of classes in the second semester of LIT 476, or the following Monday if exactly two weeks falls on a holiday.

Prior to the completion of final exams, the Honors Committee will meet to determine the level of honors awarded to each project. The Associate Chair will inform the student in writing of the decision of the Honors Committee.

For more information, please consult the Policies page of the [English Department website](#).

### **Academic Advisement in English**

Each student is responsible for following departmental advisement procedures. Students will be assigned an academic advisor whose name will appear in their PAWS accounts.

Advisors will publicize the times when they are available for conferences, but students are responsible for taking the initiative to arrange conferences with the advisor each semester during the registration period and whenever academic questions arise. The members of the English department believe that proper advisement is vital to the academic well-being of majors. The purposes of these conferences are to assure that: 1) the student is taking the appropriate courses to meet the College's academic requirements; 2) the student is pursuing those courses best suited to his or her career goals; and 3) the student will have a source of mature advice in handling whatever academic difficulties he or she may be encountering. Advisors will maintain files on each advisee, containing program planners, transcripts, a record of their attendance at advising sessions, and other relevant data.