

ENGLISH, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program

The study of English develops skills in reading analytically and perceptively and in writing clearly and effectively. Students major in English by taking courses in a wide variety of media, genres, topics, and historical periods. All students are introduced to the major by completing 20 units spread over courses in writing, any one of many topics courses, and the gateway series to the English major that covers "Literature in English" from the earliest medieval texts to the present. Students then build their own path through the major depending upon their particular interests, eventually completing 44 more units covering different historical periods, methods of theory and criticism, and thematic focuses. After a shared set of courses, students choose to specialize either in Literary Criticism and Theory or Creative Writing. All majors have the opportunity to work with distinguished writers, critics, scholars, and teachers.

English majors learn how to:

- Write clearly and effectively.
- Think creatively and analytically.
- Organize and communicate ideas creatively and efficiently.
- Analyze and critically evaluate language and other forms of representation.
- Understand texts within their historical, political, and cultural contexts.
- Recognize and evaluate various perspectives, through creating or reading fiction, drama, and poetry.
- Evaluate how fictional and non-fictional narratives structure thought and action.
- Read long texts closely, analytically, and efficiently.
- Respond spontaneously with organized, clear statements and ideas.

Career Options

Graduates have found the major excellent pre-professional training for careers in teaching, writing, law, medicine, library work, journalism, and more. Many graduates are employed in publishing, marketing, advertising, or the tech sector. Others have worked in local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as in industry. Many have gone on to graduate study in a wide range of fields including English, education, counseling, and more.

Major Advisors

A. Banful, G. Bloom, S. Boluk, S. Chaganti, Z. Clemmons, J. Clover, L. Corin, G. Dobbins, K. Frederickson, P. Houston, H. Hsu, M. Jerng, X. Lee, D. Martín, T. Menely, C. Milburn, E. Miller, M. Montoya, A. Naffis-Sahely, S. Nicolazzo, C. Ok, K. Peterson, M. Ronda, M. Stratton, M. Vernon, C. Waters, T. Werth, R. Zecena, M. Ziser

Major Advising

All new and prospective English majors are encouraged to see an undergraduate staff advisor, individually, once per year, at minimum.

Foreign Languages

Students who contemplate advanced study in English should prepare for foreign language requirements for higher degrees and should consult with the graduate advisor.

Undergraduate Advisor

See English (<http://english.ucdavis.edu>) or the Departmental Advising Office in 179 Voorhies Hall.

Honors & Honors Program

A Senior Honors Program is available to an invited group of English majors, who prepare and write a Senior Thesis (either a research paper or creative writing) in their final year. The critical honors program consists of 4 units of 194H and 4 units of 195H, normally taken during fall and spring quarters of the senior year. The creative writing honors program consists of 4 units of 100FA or 100PA, normally taken during spring quarter of the junior year, and 4 units of 195H, normally taken winter quarter of the senior year. Completion of the program is a prerequisite for High or Highest Honors at graduation. Eligibility criteria and application materials may be obtained at the Undergraduate Advising office in 179 Voorhies Hall or see English (<http://english.ucdavis.edu>). For more details, see Graduation Honors.

Education Abroad Options

The department strongly encourages interested students to pursue their studies abroad. It is possible for students to complete significant portions of the English major provided that the course is evaluated as at least 4 UC Davis units; the course is considered upper division by the standards set forth by UC Davis Study Abroad; and the student presents copies of the coursework, syllabus, and writing assignments to the department's advising staff.

Teaching Credential Subject Representative

A major in English qualifies students for subject matter preparation for the teaching credential.

Entry Level Writing

Students must have met the Entry Level Writing Requirement (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/entry-level-writing/>) before taking any course in English.

Prerequisites

ENL 003 or UWP 001 is required for admission into all preparatory courses (ENL 040, ENL 041, ENL 043, ENL 044, ENL 045, ENL 010A, ENL 010B, ENL 010C), and all upper division courses, unless otherwise stated in the course listings. COM 001, COM 002, COM 003, or COM 004 or NAS 005 may normally be substituted for ENL 003 or UWP 001.

Coursework

Up to 4 upper division units in a literature class outside of English may count toward the requirements of the major.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the English Bachelor of Arts is 64.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
Choose one:		4
ENL 003	Introduction to Literature	
or ENL 003V	Introduction to Literature	
UWP 001	Introduction to Academic Literacies	
or UWP 001V	Introduction to Academic Literacies: Online	
or UWP 001Y	Introduction to Academic Literacies	
Or equivalent		
ENL 010A	Literatures in English I: To 1700	4
ENL 010B	Literatures in English II: 1700-1900	4
ENL 010C	Literatures in English III: 1900 to Present	4
Choose one:		4
ENL 040	Introductory Topics in Literature	
ENL 041	Introductory Topics in Literature & Media	
ENL 043	Introductory Topics in Drama	
ENL 044	Introductory Topics in Fiction	
ENL 045	Introductory Topics in Poetry	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		20
Depth Subject Matter		
ENL 110A	Introduction to Literary Theory	4
or ENL 110B	Introduction to Modern Literary & Critical Theory	
<i>Historical Distribution Requirements</i>		
Choose three courses focusing on literature written in English before 1800, at least one of which must be on literature written primarily before 1500:		12
Before 1500		
ENL 111	Topics in Medieval Literature	
ENL 113A	Chaucer: Troilus & the "Minor" Poems	
ENL 113B	Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales	
1500-1800		
ENL 115	Topics in 16th- & 17th-Century Literature	
ENL 117	Shakespeare	
ENL 122	Milton	
ENL 123	18th-Century British Literature	
ENL 142	Early American Literature	
ENL 150A	British Drama to 1800	
ENL 155A	18th-Century British Novel	
ENL 185A	Literature by Women Before 1800	
Choose one course focusing on literature written in English between 1800 and 1900:		4
ENL 130	British Romantic Literature	
ENL 133	19th-Century British Literature	
ENL 143	19th-Century American Literature to the Civil War	
ENL 144	Post-Civil War American Literature	
ENL 155B	19th-Century British Novel	
ENL 158A	The American Novel to 1900	
ENL 181A	African American Literature to 1900	
ENL 185B	Literature by Women from 1800-1900	
Choose one course focusing on literature written in English between 1900 and present:		4
ENL 125	Topics in Irish Literature	
ENL 137	British Literature, 1900-1945	
ENL 138	British Literature, 1945 to Present	
ENL 146	American Literature 1900-1945	
ENL 147	American Literature, 1945 to the Present	
ENL 150B	Drama from 1800 to the Present	
ENL 154	The Graphic Novel	
ENL 155C	20th-Century British Novel	
ENL 156	The Short Story	
ENL 157	Detective Fiction	
ENL 158B	The American Novel from 1900 to the Present	
ENL 166	Love & Desire in Contemporary American Poetry	
ENL 167	20th-Century African American Poetry	
ENL 168	20th-Century American Poetry	
ENL 181B	African American Literature 1900-Present	
ENL 185C	Literature by Women after 1900	
<i>Non-Historical Distribution Requirements</i>		
Choose one course on literatures, race, and ethnicity:		4
ENL 139	Topics in Global Literatures & Cultures	
ENL 140	Topics in Postcolonial Literatures & Cultures	
ENL 141	Topics in Diasporic Literatures & Migration	
ENL 167	20th-Century African American Poetry	
ENL 178	Topics in Nations, Regions, & Other Cultural Geographies	
ENL 179	Topics in Comparative Racial & Ethnic Literary Studies	
ENL 181A	African American Literature to 1900	
ENL 181B	African American Literature 1900-Present	
ENL 182	Literature of California	
Choose one in-depth topic course in language, media, and literature:		4
ENL 105	History of the English Language	
ENL/LIN/UWP 106	English Grammar	
ENL 107	Freedom of Expression	
ENL 120	Law & Literature	
ENL 160	Film as Narrative	
ENL 162	Film Theory & Criticism	
ENL/STS 164	Writing Science	
ENL 171A	The Bible as Literature: The Old Testament (Discontinued for winter 2026) **	
ENL 171B	The Bible as Literature: Prophets & New Testament (Discontinued for winter 2026) **	
ENL/CDM/STS 172	Video Games & Culture	
ENL/STS 173	Science Fiction	
ENL 180	Children's Literature	
ENL 183	Young Adult Literature	
ENL 184	Literature & the Environment	
ENL 186	Literature, Sexuality, & Gender	
CDM/ENL/STS 172	Video Games & Culture	

LIN/ENL/UWP 106 English Grammar

STS/CDM/ENL 172 Video Games & Culture

STS/ENL 173 Science Fiction

UWP/ENL/LIN 106 English Grammar

Please note that while some courses are identified as fulfilling more than one distribution requirement, a given course can only fulfill one such requirement.

Area of Emphasis

Choose at least one: 12

Literature, Criticism, & Theory (p. 3)

Depth Subject Matter Subtotal 44

Creative Writing (p. 3)

Total Units 64

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Literature, Criticism, & Theory Emphasis

Please note that English ENL 110A or ENL 110B is a prerequisite for advanced study in the major.

Code	Title	Units
	One upper division English elective.	4
	Choose two advanced courses, one of which can be a seminar.	8
ENL 149	Topics in Literature	
ENL 153	Topics in Drama	
ENL 159	Topics in the Novel	
ENL 163	Literary Study in the British Isles	
ENL 165	Topics in Poetry	
ENL 177	Study of an Individual Author	
ENL 187A	Topics in Literature & Media	
ENL 188A	Topics in Literary & Critical Theory	
ENL 189	Seminar in Literary Studies	
ENL 194H	Seminar for Honors Students	
ENL 195H	Honors Thesis	
Total Units		12

Creative Writing Emphasis

Code	Title	Units
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Please note that students must select courses in more than one genre.

Three sections of: 12

ENL 100F Creative Writing: Fiction

ENL 100P Creative Writing: Poetry

ENL 100NF Creative Writing: Non-Fiction

ENL 100FA Creative Writing Advanced Fiction

ENL 100PA Creative Writing Advanced Poetry

Total Units 12