

College: CLAS

Department: English

Degree: B.A., B.S.

Introduction The study of English includes not only the reading of literature but the development of critical thinking skills, training in effective writing strategies, and the practice of analyzing problems from multiple perspectives. Courses in the Department of English are designed to provide over a millennium of English-language history, to deepen students' understanding of diverse cultural issues, and to improve their abilities to analyze and produce complex texts. The work that students complete in these courses prepares majors for careers in writing and teaching as well as for a variety of professions in which high levels of literacy and critical thought are required.

Various concentrations in literature and writing allow students flexible opportunities to combine interests in the literary arts with their personal and professional goals. Community-based learning courses encourage students to integrate their academic skills with experience in the metropolitan area. The breadth of knowledge and the communication skills that English majors typically acquire make them attractive to many potential employers and prepare them for a variety of professions as diverse as teaching, public relations, and law.

For those who wish to teach, the Department of English prepares majors for graduate work leading to teaching certification or for entry into graduate master's or doctoral programs in English.

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

Analyze oral, visual, and written media with attention to originator, audience, purpose, language, subject matter, and context. These analytical skills are founded on the close-reading techniques developed in English 300, Literary Form and Analysis.

Demonstrate familiarity with literary forms and genres, including conventions in poetry, novels, short stories, essays, and drama. The foundation for this familiarity are also to be acquired in English 300, Literary Form and Analysis.

Produce effective writing, which includes composing, organizing, revising, and polishing prose that is clear, analytical, and rhetorically aware. Writing 301, Critical Writing in English, provides the basic skills for such writing, which students are expected to refine throughout their undergraduate careers.

Conduct effective research, which includes framing research questions; planning, conducting, and evaluating secondary research; and integrating and citing research and evidence. These skills are also acquired in Writing 301, Critical Writing in English.

Demonstrate knowledge of historical difference through the study of early periods of literature. The English curriculum contains many courses that contribute to students' understanding of "Historical Literacy."

Demonstrate knowledge and learn to speak cogently about the politics of representation in the contexts of identity and subject formation, cultural encounter and domination, and canon formation and contestation. Three courses in the English curriculum are designed to teach students to understand these questions and issues within both the context of literature and the cultures that produce it: English 326, Literature, Community, and Difference; English 327, Culture, Imperialism, and Globalization; and English 428, Canons and Canonicity.