

English, BA

The English major provides instruction in and opportunities for writing in all of its classes. The department also offers an honors program in which students work closely with a faculty member to complete a major critical or creative project. See Honors [p. 5] in this section of the catalog.

Students interested in the English major should consult one of the academic advisors in the English undergraduate advising office.

Learning Outcomes

The goal is for students who graduate from the Department of English to demonstrate the skills of reflective reading, critical thinking, effective speaking, compelling writing, and engaged citizenship.

Reflective Readers

- Analyze literary and cultural texts through close reading.
- Gain broad knowledge of several fields of literature.
- Grasp formal elements of key literary genres.
- Learn to read comparatively to illuminate the aesthetic, social, and cultural contributions of texts.

Critical Thinkers

- Approach texts with a spirit of critical inquiry and flexibility.
- Formulate productive questions.
- Use textual evidence to support individual interpretations.
- Draw upon several different critical approaches to literature in English.

Effective Speakers

- Express opinions about the texts they read through discussion and written assignments.
- Listen respectfully to others' opinions.
- Work in class—whether through active listening or discussion—to learn by synthesizing a range of texts, insights, and opinions.

Compelling Writers

- Express their ideas in clear, fluent, and lively prose.
- Organize their ideas effectively.
- Use textual evidence to illustrate and support their insights and arguments.
- Demonstrate the ability to write in different modes that are appropriate to particular contexts.
- Engage properly with relevant scholarship and creative work.
- Use research skills that include an understanding of methods, technology, and conventions.

Engaged World Citizens

- Communicate respect and understanding for the literatures and cultures of diverse historical periods, geographical regions, and cultures.
- Explore ethical issues raised by literature.
- Reflect on the ways that literature addresses issues of social justice.

- Use reading, speaking, and writing skills to engage with the ethical concerns raised by literature in their daily and professional lives.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in English requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 36 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

In planning coursework, students should be guided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences maximum hours rule: students earning a BA may apply a maximum of 56 s.h. earned in one department to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation, whether or not the coursework is accepted toward requirements for the major; students who earn more than 56 s.h. from one department may use the additional semester hours to satisfy requirements for the major (if the department accepts them), and the grades they earn become part of their grade-point average, but they cannot apply the additional semester hours to the minimum 120 s.h. required for graduation.

Students must earn at least 21 s.h. of credit for the major at the University of Iowa. Transfer students may count a maximum of 15 s.h. of approved transfer credit toward the major.

Students earning a major in English may not earn a major in English and creative writing.

Students in the English major may fulfill the GE CLAS Core Interpreting Literature requirement with the introductory course ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures.

Students pursuing the BA in English can choose to complete the requirements for the publishing track; see the following section, "Publishing Track." For information about teaching English in elementary or secondary schools, see the section titled "Teacher Licensure."

The BA with a major in English requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Introductory Courses	6
Intermediate Courses	15
Advanced Course	3
Electives	12

Introductory Courses

All English majors must complete two introductory courses and are encouraged to enroll in them as soon as they declare the major.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
ENGL:2010	Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures	3
One of these:		
ENGL:2012	Reading and Writing About the Novel	3
ENGL:2013	Reading and Writing About Poetry	3

ENGL:2014	Reading and Writing About the Short Story	3
ENGL:2015	Reading and Writing About Drama	3
ENGL:2016	Reading and Writing About the Essay	3

Intermediate Courses

Intermediate coursework for the major (prefix ENGL, numbered 2021–3999) is divided into three areas. Students must complete at least two courses (6 s.h.) from the Historical Contexts list; two courses (6 s.h.) from the Cultural Contexts list; and one course (3 s.h.) from the Craft and Method list.

Historical Contexts

English courses (prefix ENGL) numbered 2200–2450 and 3200–3440 may be used for this requirement.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least two of these:		
ENGL:2206	Classical and Biblical Literature	3
ENGL:2216	Selected Works of the Middle Ages	3
ENGL:2236	Selected Early Authors	3
ENGL:2309	Selected British Authors Before 1900	3
ENGL:2310	Selected British Authors After 1900	3
ENGL:2329	Topics in Modern British Literature Before 1900	3
ENGL:2330	Topics in Modern British Literature After 1900	3
ENGL:2338	Eighteenth-Century British Literature	3
ENGL:2348	British Romanticism	3
ENGL:2359	Victorian Literature	3
ENGL:2360	Twentieth-Century British Literature	3
ENGL:2409	Selected American Authors Before 1900	3
ENGL:2410	Selected American Authors After 1900	3
ENGL:2420	American Literary Classics	3
ENGL:2425	American Poetry	3
ENGL:2438	American Novel Before 1900	3
ENGL:2440	American Novel After 1900	3
ENGL:2450	American Short Story	3
ENGL:3216	Topics in Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3
ENGL:3226	Literature and Culture of the Middle Ages	3
ENGL:3236	Literature and the Culture of the Renaissance	3
ENGL:3237	Literature and Culture of Seventeenth-Century England	3
ENGL:3246	16th- and 17th-Century Poetry	3
ENGL:3247	The English Bible	3

ENGL:3256	Old English Language and Literature	3
ENGL:3257	Old English Beowulf	3
ENGL:3266	Medieval Celtic Literature	3
ENGL:3267	Medieval Norse Literature	3
ENGL:3276	Medieval Drama	3
ENGL:3277	English Renaissance Drama	3
ENGL:3286	Chaucer	3
ENGL:3287	Shakespeare	3
ENGL:3296	Milton	3
ENGL:3320	Modern British Drama	3
ENGL:3329	Literature and Culture of Eighteenth-Century Britain	3
ENGL:3338	Literature and Culture of the Romantic Period	3
ENGL:3339	Literature and Culture of Nineteenth-Century Britain	3
ENGL:3350	Literature and Culture of 20th- and 21st-Century Britain	3
ENGL:3355	British Poetry	3
ENGL:3360	British Fiction	3
ENGL:3401	Literature and Book History	3
ENGL:3418	Literature and Culture of America Before 1800	3
ENGL:3419	Literature and Culture of Nineteenth-Century America	3
ENGL:3420	Literature and the Culture of Twentieth-Century America	3
ENGL:3429	Topics in American Literature Before 1900	3
ENGL:3430	Topics in American Literature After 1900	3
ENGL:3431	American Novel Since 1945	3
ENGL:3439	American Drama Before 1900	3
ENGL:3440	American Drama Since 1900	3

Cultural Contexts

English courses (prefix ENGL) numbered 2451–2699 and 3441–3699 may be used for this requirement.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least two of these:		
ENGL:2463	Topics in African American Literature	3
ENGL:2465	Selected African American Authors	3
ENGL:2475	Asian American Literature	3
ENGL:2505	Introduction to Postcolonial Studies	3
ENGL:2510	Selected Transnational Authors	3
ENGL:2560	Topics in Culture and Identity	3
ENGL:2570	Love, War, Activism: Stories About Women From Across the World	3
ENGL:2571	Visualizing Human Rights	3
ENGL:2593	Literature, Culture, and Women	3

ENGL:3441	Native American Literature	3	ENGL:3010	Children's Literature	3
ENGL:3444	Literatures of the American Peoples	3	ENGL:3100	Topics in Criticism and Theory	3
ENGL:3450	American Regional Literatures	3	ENGL:3102	Topics in Poetry and Poetics	3
ENGL:3455	Jewish American Literature	3	ENGL:3130	Topics in Film and Literature	3
ENGL:3459	African American Literature Before 1900	3	ENGL:3140	Literature and the Book	3
ENGL:3460	African American Literature After 1900	3	ENGL:3142	Topics in Book History	3
ENGL:3461	Twenty-First Century African American Literature	3	ENGL:3145	Editorial Practice	3
ENGL:3462	African American Drama	3	ENGL:3148	Literary Editing	3
ENGL:3465	African American Autobiography	3	ENGL:3150	Literature and Philosophic Thought	3
ENGL:3467	Latina/o/x Literatures and Cultures	3	ENGL:3155	Literature and Art	3
ENGL:3470	Gender, Sexuality, and American Literature	3	ENGL:3160	Literary Genres and Modes	3
ENGL:3510	Topics in Transnational Literature	3	ENGL:3181	Digital Media and Poetics	3
ENGL:3515	Topics in Postcolonial Studies	3	ENGL:3182	Digital Cultures and Literacies	3
ENGL:3520	Literature and Culture of the 20th and 21st Century	3	ENGL:3186	Science Fiction	3
ENGL:3525	Literature and Culture of the Americas	3	ENGL:3190	Language and Learning	3
ENGL:3540	Literature of the Indian Subcontinent	3	ENGL:3191	Reading and Teaching Adolescent Literature	3
ENGL:3550	African Literature	3	ENGL:3700	Topics in Craft and Method	3
ENGL:3565	Literature and the Environment	3	ENGL:3721	Writers' Seminar: Fiction	3
ENGL:3570	Transnational and Postcolonial Writing by Women	3	ENGL:3722	Writers' Seminar: Poetry	3
ENGL:3571	Higher Education and Social Justice	3	ENGL:3723	Writers' Seminar: Nonfiction	3
ENGL:3572	Literature and Social Justice	3	ENGL:3724	Writers' Seminar: Literary Translation	3
ENGL:3573	Gender, Sexuality, and Literature	3	ENGL:3725	Writers' Seminar: Playwriting	3
ENGL:3580	Identity and Social Issues	3	ENGL:3768	Writing About Migration and Memory	3
ENGL:3581	Topics in Popular Culture	3	ENGL:3850	Undergraduate Translation Workshop	3
ENGL:3595	International Literature Today	3	CNW:2680/ ENGL:2730	The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction	3
ENGL:3610	Literature and Society	3	CNW:2700	The Art and Craft of Personal Writing	3
			CNW:2710	The Art and Craft of Food Writing	3
			CNW:2720	The Art and Craft of Writing About Culture	3
			CNW:2730	The Art and Craft of Science Writing	3
			CNW:2740	The Art and Craft of Writing about the Environment	3
			CNW:2760	The Art and Craft of Writing for Social Change	3
			CNW:2770	The Art and Craft of Writing for New Media	3
			CNW:2780	The Art and Craft of Writing About Sports	3
			CNW:2790	The Art and Craft of Humor Writing	3
			CNW:2830	The Art and Craft of Immersion Journalism	3
			CNW:2840	The Art and Craft of Travel Writing	3
			CNW:2910	Writing for Applications and Awards	3
			CNW:2991/ ENGL:2741	Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing	3

Craft and Method

English courses (prefix ENGL) numbered 2100–2199, 2700–2799, 2900–2999, 3010, 3100–3199, 3700–3899, and creative nonfiction writing courses (prefix CNW) numbered 2000–4999 may be used for this requirement.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least one of these:		
ENGL:2100	Introduction to Criticism and Theory	3
ENGL:2191	Modern Fiction	3
ENGL:2192	Postmodern Fiction	3
ENGL:2194	Lyric Structures	3
ENGL:2900	Book Design for Publishing	3
ENGL:2901	The Book in Global History	3

CNW:2992/ ENGL:2742	Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publication	3
CNW:3600/ ENGL:3800	Issues in Creative Nonfiction	3
CNW:3630/ ENGL:3730	Advanced Nonfiction Writing	3
CNW:3632/ ENGL:3732	Prose Style	3
CNW:3633/ ENGL:3733	Personal Writing	3
CNW:3640	Writing for Business	3
CNW:3660/ ENGL:3760	Multimedia Writing	3
CNW:3661/ ENGL:3761	Film and Writing	3
CNW:3664/ ENGL:3764	Writing About Science	3
CNW:4355	Approaches to Teaching Writing	3
CNW:4631/ ENGL:4731	Advanced Essay Workshop	3
CNW:4635/ ENGL:4735	Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing	3
CNW:4690	Undergraduate Project in Nonfiction Writing	3

Advanced Courses

Students must complete at least 3 s.h. in advanced courses for the English major, including ENGL:4000–ENGL:4009, ENGL:4100, or ENGL:4150.

Course #	Title	Hours
At least one of these:		
ENGL:4000	Honors Literature Seminar	3
ENGL:4001	Honors Literature Seminar: American	3
ENGL:4002	Honors Literature Seminar: British	3
ENGL:4003	Honors Literature Seminar: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies, 20th/21st Century	3
ENGL:4004	Honors Literature Seminar: Transnational and Postcolonial Literature, 20th/21st Century	3
ENGL:4005	Honors Literature Seminar: American Literature, 18th/19th Century	3
ENGL:4006	Honors Literature Seminar: British Literature, 18th/19th Century	3
ENGL:4009	Honors Literature Seminar: Medieval and Early Modern Literature, Early Literature/17th Century	3
ENGL:4100	Advanced Literary Seminar	3
ENGL:4150	Introduction to Book Studies	3

Electives

Students complete 12 s.h. in additional Department of English courses (prefixes ENGL or CNW) numbered above

2000; these may include ENGL:2030 Literary Readings Attendance, ENGL:2040 English at Work, ENGL:4010 Special Project for Undergraduates, and ENGL:4050 Internship for Majors. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. earned in creative writing courses (prefix CW) numbered 2000–4999 as part of these electives.

Publishing Track

The world of publishing includes many different careers: editors, designers, agents, and even sales representatives. Students who are interested in these careers may wish to pursue the publishing track. By selecting courses carefully, students may complete the track without adding additional semester hours to their total credit required for graduation. Students should consult the department's advisors for information about completing the English major with the publishing track.

Courses range across print and digital media, exposing students to the history and practice of literary publishing while developing their skills in editing, proofreading, and writing with clarity and purpose. Internships and hands-on class learning offer students the opportunity to produce their own publications and gain practical experience.

Students in the publishing track must complete the following.

Literary Publishing

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these (6 s.h.):		
CNW:2991/ ENGL:2741	Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing	3
CNW:2992/ ENGL:2742	Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publication	3

Editing and Book Design, History, or Revision

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these (3 s.h.):		
ENGL:2900	Book Design for Publishing	3
ENGL:2901	The Book in Global History	3
ENGL:3140	Literature and the Book	3
ENGL:3142	Topics in Book History	3
ENGL:3145	Editorial Practice	3
ENGL:3148	Literary Editing	3
ENGL:4150	Introduction to Book Studies	3
CNW:3632/ ENGL:3732	Prose Style	3

Career Preparation

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these (1-3 s.h.):		
ENGL:2040	English at Work	1
ENGL:4050	Internship for Majors	1-4
CCP:1005	Internship in Liberal Arts and Sciences	0
CCP:1201	Academic Internship	1-3

Teacher Licensure

Students who plan to teach English in elementary or secondary schools should consult with an advisor in the College of Education as early as possible; contact the Office of Student Services. The BA in English education requires that

students choose particular courses in the English major in order to meet all related requirements; both degrees may be earned at the same time. Separate application to each degree program is required.

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Apply on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in English and thereby enhance their course of study through honors seminars. All those interested in taking honors coursework are welcome to apply to the English Honors Program as soon as they qualify. The process begins with an online application; visit English Honors Programs on the Department of English website.

Students take three honors seminars and must achieve a University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.50.

Each year the department offers between four and six scholarship and criticism seminars covering a wide range of subjects, authors, and methods. Limited to 16 students, honors seminars carry 3 s.h. of credit, meet three hours each week, and encourage class discussions that are lively and knowledgeable. Substantial reading and research are required and culminate in a 15–20 page essay. Students register for ENGL:4000 Honors Literature Seminar–ENGL:4009. These courses cover different areas and historical periods, with possible focal points in American literature, British literature, literary theory, or transnational studies.

The third of the three honor seminars may be replaced with ENGL:4040 Honors Project in Literary Studies, a capstone project. For this independent study option, interested students should seek out possible mentors in their junior year.

To register for an Honors Literature seminar, students are encouraged to have a University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33. In addition, they must have successfully completed three English courses (not including introductory courses in nonfiction or creative writing): ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures; one course out of ENGL:2012–ENGL:2016; and a departmental course of their choosing.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the English major.

Career Advancement

The English major prepares students for a wide variety of career paths including teaching, medicine, law, graduate school, and jobs in private and nonprofit sectors where writing, organization, research, and communication are highly valued. Within a year of graduation, over 92% of Department of English students are employed or in graduate programs.

The department's advisors help guide students in their career path. The Department of English partners with the Pomerantz Career Center to introduce career development strategies and offer resources to help students find internships and jobs. For more information, students are encouraged to explore Careers and Opportunities on the Department of English website or enroll in ENGL:2040 English at Work (1 s.h.).

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least two courses in the major.

Before the seventh semester begins: at least four more courses (total of six) in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: at least two more courses (total of eight) in the major.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

English, BA

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
	Hours	0
First Year		
Fall		
Major: "Reading and Writing About" course (prefix ENGL numbered 2012-2016)		3
RHET:1030	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	4
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^b		3
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
	Hours	14
Spring		
ENGL:2010	Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures ^c	3

ENGL:2030	Literary Readings Attendance ^d	1
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3

Hours 17-18

Second Year

Fall

Major: craft and methods course ^g		3
WRIT:1600	Fast Fixes: Improving Your Writing in Six Short Weeks ^h	1
Major: literature in cultural contexts course (prefix ENGL numbered 2451-2699 and 3441-3699)		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^b		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		1

Hours 16-17

Spring

Major: english elective or honors seminar ^{i, j, k}		3
Major: literature in cultural contexts course (prefix ENGL numbered 2451-2699 and 3441-3699)		3
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3

Hours 16-17

Third Year

Fall

ENGL:2040	English at Work ^d	1
Major: advanced english course (prefix ENGL numbered 4000-4009 or ENGL:4100 Advanced Literary Seminar or ENGL:4150 Introduction to Book Studies)		3
Major: literature in historical contexts (prefix ENGL numbered 2200-2450 and 3200-3440)		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency ^e		4 - 5
Elective course ^f		3

Hours 14-15

Spring

Study Abroad (optional)		
Major: literature in historical contexts (prefix ENGL numbered 2200-2450 and 3200-3440)		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^b		3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^b		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3

Hours 15

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: english elective or honors seminar ^{i, j, k}		3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^b		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		2

Hours 14

Spring

Major: elective course		3
Major: elective course		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3
Elective course ^f		3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)^l

Hours 15

Total Hours 121-125

a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.

b GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.

c Major courses can be taken in any order as long as ENGL:2010 is taken before any 3000-level-course.

d This course is recommended to fulfill the English elective requirement.

e Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

f Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

g English courses (prefix ENGL) numbered 2100 to 2199, 2700 to 2799, 2900 to 2999, 3010, 3100 to 3199, 3700 to 3899, and creative nonfiction writing courses (prefix CNW) numbered 2000 to 4999 may be used for this requirement.

h This course is recommended but not required for the BA in English.

i Students may count up to 6 s.h. earned in courses with prefix CW toward the major.

j Students choose courses with the prefix ENGL, CNW, or CW numbered 2000 or above.

k Students with honors in the major complete three seminars. Visit the Department of English website for more information on applying to the English Honors Program.

l Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.