

English, BA

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:4001–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 a scholarly seminar, students are encouraged to have a University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33. In addition, they must have completed three English courses (not including introductory courses in nonfiction or creative writing) with an English major GPA of at least 3.33: 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.