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. ] in this section of the Catalog.

Students interested in the English major should consult the academic advisor 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; and
- learn to read comparatively to illuminate 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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- use research skills that include 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; and
- use reading, speaking, and writing skills to engage with the ethical concerns raised by literature in their daily and professional lives.