English

Chair
• Loren D. Glass

Undergraduate majors: English (B.A.); English and creative writing (B.A.)
Undergraduate minor: English
Graduate degrees: M.A. in English; M.F.A. in English (creative writing, nonfiction writing); Ph.D. in English
Faculty: https://english.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://english.uiowa.edu

The Department of English offers courses in literature, cultural studies, language, and critical and creative writing. In these courses, students read poetry, fiction, essays, criticism, and theory to acquire methods for understanding literature and culture and respond creatively to the texts. In addition to providing these essential elements of a liberal arts and sciences education, the department's courses can augment students' specialized interests in other fields. Visit the Department of English website to learn more about courses and upcoming events.

Many undergraduate and graduate students enroll in the department’s degree programs. Most Ph.D. students in English are preparing for careers as teachers and scholars, and many M.F.A. students in the creative writing program and the nonfiction writing program are preparing for lives as published writers. The B.A. and M.A. programs provide valuable training for careers in a variety of fields. Students who have earned English degrees from the University of Iowa write for advertising firms, newspapers, the entertainment industry and book publishers; teach in primary and secondary schools; practice law and medicine; work in business, industry, and nonprofits; and participate in state and federal government. Many students who earn a B.A. go on to pursue a M.F.A. in creative writing fields. As much as possible, each student’s course of study is arranged to meet individual needs and objectives.

The Department of English participates in several of the University’s interdisciplinary units: the Departments of American Studies, Cinematic Arts, and Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies; the African American Studies Program; the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program; and the Center for the Book.

Creative Writing Programs

For the past 75 years, the University of Iowa has been a national leader in all areas of creative writing. The University offers graduate degrees in creative writing, with specializations in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Undergraduate students may declare a major in English and creative writing. All qualified undergraduates in other majors may enroll in many of the creative writing courses offered by the Department of English.

View creative writing courses (prefixes CW, CNW, and ENGL) under Courses [p. ] in this section of the Catalog. See which ones are offered in certain semesters by searching for course subjects CW, CNW, and ENGL on the MyUI Courses page.

GE CLAS Core

Students earning a degree from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences must satisfy the Interpretation of Literature