

ENGLISH, B.A.

The English major teaches students to appreciate and use the English language and literature effectively for critical thinking, effective communication, citizenship, and career success. English majors build strong writing skills and engage in high-level critical and analytical thinking. They encounter enriching, enduring, experimental, and complex works of literature. And they grapple with perspectives far distant from their own, examining their deepest values. Instructors introduce students to a wide range of genres and cultural perspectives, and pay close attention to all aspects of student thinking and writing, from logic and evidence to originality and style. Fostering communication skills, stimulating creativity, developing cultural sensitivity, and sharpening analytical abilities, the English major prepares students for a broad range of careers.

English majors choose one of three tracks: the general major (which emphasizes literary and cultural studies), creative writing, or language and linguistics. All majors take a core curriculum that introduces them to a range of approaches to literature and language, including courses in literary and cultural history. Students who opt for the general major build on core courses with intermediate and advanced classes that focus on texts from across a range of periods and places, investigating literature and culture using multiple methods and approaches. Students pursuing the emphasis on creative writing take the core curriculum with a sequence of creative writing workshops. Students wishing to emphasize language and linguistics choose options in grammar, the history of the English language, phonology, and language acquisition.

TEACHING MAJOR

Those who wish to prepare for teaching careers at the secondary level should complete the undergraduate English major and then apply for a teaching certificate or graduate education program. For further information, students should make an appointment with the undergraduate advisor in English or the graduate advisor in curriculum and instruction.

HOW TO GET IN

There are no admission requirements for the major. Students interested in declaring the major should schedule an appointment with the undergraduate academic advisor listed in the Contact Box on the right sidebar of this page.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate

General Education Requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudyttext>) section of the *Guide*.

General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits Communication Part A & Part B * Ethnic Studies * Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.
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L&S Breadth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and 12 credits of Social Science; and 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
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Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
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Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
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Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
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UW–Madison Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 credits in residence, overall; and 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
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Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison • 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison
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NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

30 credits in intermediate- and advanced-level ENGL courses numbered 204 and higher.¹

ENGLISH (LITERATURE)

Code	Title	Credits
Survey of Literature		
ENGL 241	Literature and Culture I: to the 18th Century	3
ENGL 242	Literature and Culture II: from the 18th Century to the Present	3
American Literature (1 course)		3
ENGL/ LITTRANS 223	Vladimir Nabokov: Russian and American Writings	
ENGL 243	American Literary Cultures	
ENGL/ AMER IND 246	Literature by American Indian Women	
ENGL/ GEN&WS 248	Women in Ethnic American Literature	
ENGL/ ASIAN AM 270	A Survey of Asian American Literature	
ENGL 357	Major American Poets	
ENGL 361	Modern and Contemporary American Literature	
ENGL/ CHICLA 368	Chicana/o and Latina/o Literatures	
ENGL 374	African and African Diaspora Literature and Culture	
ENGL 439	Topic in Early American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 455	A Study of an Outstanding Figure or Figures in American Literature	
ENGL 456	Topic in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture	
ENGL 457	Topic in American Literature and Culture since 1900	
ENGL 458	Major American Writer or Writers	
ENGL 459	Three American Novelists	
ENGL 461	Topics in Ethnic and Multicultural Literature	
ENGL/ASIAN AM/ GEN&WS 463	Race and Sexuality in American Literature	
ENGL/ASIAN AM/ GEN&WS 464	Asian American Women Writers	

ENGL/ ASIAN AM 465	Asian American Poetry
ENGL 474	Topic in Contemporary Literature
ENGL/ JEWISH 539	Jewish Literatures in Diaspora
ENGL/ GEN&WS 545	Feminist Theory and Women's Writing in English
ENGL/ JEWISH 593	Literature of Jewish Identity in America
ENGL/ AFROAMER 672	Selected Topics in Afro-American Literature
Pre-1800 course (two course)	
6	
<i>You may take one (only) Shakespeare course:</i>	
ENGL 219	Shakespearean Drama
ENGL 220	Shakespearean Drama
ENGL 431	Early Works of Shakespeare
ENGL 432	Later Works of Shakespeare
<i>You must take at least one course that is not Shakespeare:</i>	
ENGL 328	The Sixteenth Century
ENGL 331	Seventeenth-Century Literature and Culture
ENGL 334	Eighteenth Century Literature and Culture
ENGL 335	Stage and Page in the Long Eighteenth Century
ENGL 336	Eighteenth-Century Novel
ENGL/HISTORY/ RELIG ST 360	The Anglo-Saxons
ENGL 422	Outstanding Figure(s) in Literature before 1800
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 423	Topic in Medieval Literature and Culture
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 424	Medieval Drama
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 425	Medieval Romance
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 426	Chaucers Courtly Poetry
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 427	Chaucer's Canterbury Tales
ENGL 430	Topic in Early Modern Literature and Culture
ENGL 433	Spenser
ENGL/ RELIG ST 434	Milton
ENGL 438	Topic in Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 520	Old English
ENGL/ MEDIEVAL 521	Advanced Old English Literature
ENGL 543	Discourses of Disability, Antiquity to 1800
ENGL 546	Topic in Travel Writing before 1800
Seminar	

ENGL 245	Seminar in the Major	3
Language or Composition & Rhetoric (1 course)		3
ENGL 204	Studies in Writing, Rhetoric, and Literacy	
ENGL 214	The English Language	
ENGL 304	Composition & Rhetoric In and Beyond the University	
ENGL 400	Advanced Composition	
ENGL/ GEN&WS 401	Race, Sex, and Texts (How to do things with writing)	
ENGL 403	Seminar on Tutoring Writing Across the Curriculum	
ENGL 505	Topics in Composition and Rhetoric	
Electives		9
any course from ENGL 204-699 ¹		

Total Credits **30**

1

excluding ENGL 207 and ENGL 236.

NAMED OPTIONS

Students may complete a named option, instead of the traditional English major. These are formally printed on the transcript.

View as listView as grid

- ENGLISH: EMPHASIS ON CREATIVE WRITING ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/ENGLISH/ENGLISH-BA/ENGLISH-EMPHASIS-CREATIVE-WRITING-BA/](http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/english-ba/english-emphasis-creative-writing-ba/))
- ENGLISH: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS ([HTTP://GUIDE.WISC.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/LETTERS-SCIENCE/ENGLISH/ENGLISH-BA/ENGLISH-ENGLISH-LANGUAGES-LINGUISTICS-BA/](http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/english-ba/english-english-languages-linguistics-ba/))

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all ENGL courses and all major courses

2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, taken in residence²

15 credits in ENGL, taken on the UW–Madison campus

2

Intermediate and Advanced level ENGL courses are considered upper level in the major.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the English major with permission of the major advisor. All English majors, including those declared in either named option, are eligible to complete Honors in the major.

HONORS IN THE ENGLISH MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major in English, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA in all ENGL courses and all major courses
- Complete 12 credits, taken for Honors, with a grade of B or better to include:
 - ENGL 245 and
 - Either:
 - a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in ENGL 681 and ENGL 682 for a total of 6 credits, or
 - a senior Honors project that includes ENGL 680 and one other 3-credit I/A ENGL course taken for Honors OR
 - ENGL 695 and one other ENGL Creative Writing Workshop taken for Honors

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (History of literature and language) To demonstrate knowledge of major forms, techniques, social conditions, values, and genres that have shaped the history of English literature and language.
2. (Critical thinking) To be able to discern and integrate divergent and contradictory perspectives, identify and question assumptions, and assess evidence and methods.
3. (Creativity) To generate original ideas and texts, experimenting and taking risks, solving problems, and answering questions in a range of genres and media.
4. (Critical writing) To write original, coherent, and compelling arguments that push beyond summary to analysis and independent and critical thinking in clear prose that meets expectations for grammatical correctness.
5. (Citizenship) To develop empathy by learning about the experiences of others, and to gain an understanding of how we participate in communities (including the classroom) and the public sphere.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Communication A (complete during your first year)		3 Ethnic Studies	3
Quantitative Reasoning A (complete during your first year)		3 Foreign Language (if required)	4
Foreign Language		4 Social Science Breadth	3
Social Science Breadth		4 Physical Science Breadth	3
		Elective	3
	14		16

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Quantitative Reasoning B		4 ENGL 201 or 207 (COM-B)	3
ENGL 241		3 ENGL 242	3
ENGL 245		3 English Language or Composition/Rhetoric Requirement	3
Social Science Breadth		3-4 Social Science Breadth	3
INTER-LS 210		1 Biological Science Breadth	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Declare the Major (before 86 credits) ¹		Pre-1800 Literature Requirement	3
Natural Science Breadth		3 English I/A Elective	3
Elective		3 Natural Science Breadth	3
American Literature		3 Elective	3
Pre-1800 Literature Requirement ²		3 Elective	3
Elective		3	
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
English I/A Elective		3 English I/A Elective	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
Elective		3 Elective	3

Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 120

Footnotes

1

Students must declare a major before 86 credits.

2

See your major advisor if you want to declare English/Creative Writing, Honors in the English major, or plan to study abroad.

Please refer to the Requirements tab in Guide for additional College of Letters & Science Breadth and Degree Requirements as well as Residence and Quality of Work requirements for the major.

THREE-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE THREE-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Three-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own three-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests.

Three-year plans may vary considerably from student to student, depending on their individual preparation and circumstances. Students interested in graduating in three years should meet with an advisor as early as possible to discuss feasibility, appropriate course sequencing, post-graduation plans (careers, graduate school, etc.), and opportunities they might forgo in pursuit of a three-year graduation plan.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Students planning to graduate within three years with an English major should enter the University with a minimum of 30 advanced standing credits, and have satisfied the following requirements with course credit or via placement examination:

- Communication Part A
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A
- 18 combined credits of Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Science coursework
- 3-4 units of foreign language

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Ethnic Studies		3 ENGL 201 or 207 (meets Communication B)	3
Literature Breadth		3 ENGL 241 or 242	3
Science Breadth		3 Physical Science Breadth	3
Social Science Breadth		3 Social Science Breadth	3
Foreign Language (if interested in retroactive credit or to reach 4 units) or Elective		3 Elective	3
	15		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 241 or 242	3	Pre-1800 Literature course	3
ENGL 245	3	ENGL Elective	3
English Language or Composition & Rhetoric course	3	Social Science Breadth or Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level)	3
Quantitative Reasoning B (if B.A.) or Elective (if B.S.)	3	Intermediate or Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if B.S.) or Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level) (if B.A.)	3
Social Science Breadth	3	Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level)	3
		15	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
American Literature course	3	ENGL Elective	3
Pre-1800 Literature course	3	ENGL Elective	3
Biological Science Breadth	3	Intermediate or Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if B.S.) or Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level) (if B.A.)	3
Science Breadth or Elective	3	Electives (Intermediate or Advanced level)	6
Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level)	3		
		15	15

Total Credits 90**ADVISING AND CAREERS****ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The English department supports majors and perspective majors by offering a comprehensive advising team based on your personal interests. You will find us on the 7th floor of the Helen C. White Building (<https://map.wisc.edu/s/6nfnztsa/>), next to Memorial Union. Our team is here to support students holistically as they navigate their time at UW. To meet our advisors, visit our undergraduate advising page (<https://english.wisc.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-advising/>) for more information, including how to schedule an appointment.

CAREERS AND INTERNSHIP ADVISOR**Career & Internship Coordinator**

careers@english.wisc.edu (Career & Internship Coordinator
careers@english.wisc.edu)
7195E Helen C. White, 600 North Park Street

English Career Advising (<https://english.wisc.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-advising/>)

The English Department encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after declaring the major. Our career advisor also partners with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to their success.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

PEOPLE

Please visit the English Department website (<https://english.wisc.edu/teaching-faculty/>) for a complete list of faculty, instructional, and academic staff.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**WRITING CENTER**

The Writing Center (<https://writing.wisc.edu/>), located in 6171 Helen C. White Hall, offers free individualized help with writing. Students are welcome to come to the center for help with writing assignments in almost any course. In half-hour tutorials, instructors help students clarify and organize ideas and offer advice about revising a draft. The center also offers short-term classes on various facets of writing, including classes

on writing about literature, writing research papers, writing book reviews, writing essay exams, and on many other topics. The Writing Center also has a computer lab.

To make an appointment, students should call 263-1992 or stop by when the center is open. During busy times of the semester, the center often is booked several days in advance, so students should plan ahead. For complete information about the center, including hours, schedules for writing assistance in the Multicultural Student Center and residence halls, extensive handouts about writing, and information about the Undergraduate Writing Fellows program, see the center website (<https://writing.wisc.edu>).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND WRITING PRIZES

The English Department is proud to offer numerous forms of support for its undergraduate students and to recognize exceptional accomplishments in various forms of academic and creative work. You can find information about scholarships, prizes, and grants specifically designated for declared English majors on our website (<https://english.wisc.edu/undergraduate/apply-for-scholarships/>). Typically, these prizes and scholarships are awarded in the spring semester. Applications need to be submitted online, via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WISH) (<https://wisc.academicworks.com/>).