

ENGLISH, B.A. (LIBERAL ARTS)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Program Description

Majors explore the imaginative and practical uses of English through courses in literature, writing, rhetoric, and language. They develop perspectives on human nature and cultural values through American, British, and other English literatures; they learn how to gather, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information; they gain mastery over their language. These skills help English majors find careers in such fields as publishing, business, industry, government, and teaching. English majors often go on to postgraduate study not only in English but in such areas as law, business, education, or other liberal disciplines.

Majors can emphasize writing, literature, or rhetoric, or a mix of literature, writing, and rhetoric. All provide a liberal education and all develop analytic and writing skills. Qualified students may participate in the career internship and in the English honors program.

Students interested in earning certification in secondary education should contact the College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Instruction. (See also Teacher Education Programs (<https://ed.psu.edu/academics/teacher-testing-certification/>).

Traditions of Innovation Option

Available at the following campuses: *Abington, Brandywine, Scranton, University Park*

This option allows students to explore the imaginative and practical uses of English language through a variety of courses in literature, writing, and rhetoric across historical periods. The flexibility of the English curriculum allows students to focus in literary and cultural studies, creative writing, professional and media writing, and/or rhetoric, according to individual interests and goals. In the process, students learn to gather, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information as they improve their language skills across diverse creative and critical scenarios. These skills prepare students for careers in a wide range of professional fields.

Writing and Literature in Context Option

Available at the following campuses: *Abington, Altoona, Brandywine, Scranton, York*

This option focuses on English as a foundation for strong critical thinking and distinctive communication skills, imaginative approaches to problem solving, and collaboration with aligned fields. The flexibility of the major allows students to study literature, creative writing, theatre, media studies, professional writing, and/or other disciplines, according to their individual interests and goals. These foundations prepare English majors for careers in a wide range of professional fields.

What is English?

English refers to a broad field of study related to literature, professional writing, creative writing, and rhetoric. Majors develop critical thinking skills and produce influential academic, creative, professional, and digital texts. They learn to analyze genres, texts, and contexts that involve, for instance, race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality. They also learn

how various texts communicate value, meaning, and social and cultural critique.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy writing in different genres, styles, and media, e.g. videos, print or web magazine articles, critical essays, reviews, short stories, poems, etc.
- You enjoy addressing social justice issues that give context to texts.
- You want to use communication to help solve problems involving science, technology, medicine, law, business, or society.
- You enjoy making connections between historical eras and current realities.
- You want to a career in law, non-profit work, medicine, education, or writing/editing.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (<https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in English, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	18
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	36

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		

ENGL 200	Introduction to Critical Reading	3
or ENGL 201	What is Literature	
ENGL 494H	Senior Thesis in English	3
or ENGL 487W	Senior Seminar	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

In consultation with adviser, select 18 credits in literature, writing, or rhetoric. At least 9 credits must be at the 300/400 level. At least 3 of the 300/400 level credits must fulfill a departmental diversity requirement for a course related to race, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, and/or postcolonial issues.	18
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Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option	12
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Requirements for the Option**Traditions of Innovation Option (12 Credits)**

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Brandywine, Scranton, University Park

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits of 300/400 level course in each of the following areas:		12
Medieval through Sixteenth Century		
Sixteenth Century through Eighteenth Century		
The Nineteenth Century		
Twentieth Century to the Present		

Writing and Literature in Context Option (12 Credits)

Available at the following campuses: Abington, Altoona, Brandywine, Scranton, York

Code	Title	Credits
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 3 credits of 400-level pre-1800 courses		3
Select 3 credits of 400-level post-1800 courses		3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 6 credits of English courses at any level		6

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements**First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Integrated B.A. in English and M.A. in English

Available at the following campuses: University Park

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in English and M.A. in English can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/english/#integratedundergradgradprogramstext>).

Program Learning Objectives

- Apply critical, theoretical, and/or disciplinary approaches to the reading and analysis of texts in multiple genres and/or media.
- Analyze the aesthetic and/or cultural significance of the ideas, values, conventions, forms, and genres associated with texts.
- Gather, evaluate, and employ an array of research materials in support of critical studies, and/or creative activity, in ways consistent with standards of academic integrity.
- Demonstrate writing and rhetorical skills appropriate to critical and/or creative tasks in a variety of media and genres.
- Analyze representative literary, theoretical, and cultural texts within significant historical, geographical, and cultural contexts.
- Analyze the role of literature and rhetoric in the representation, continuation, or transformation of social and structural processes including but not limited to race, gender, sexuality, disability, class, ethnicity, and postcolonialism.

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of

both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising

814-865-2545

Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (<https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/>) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

Abington

Liliana Naydan

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Altoona

Erin C. Murphy

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Brandywine

Maureen Fielding, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, English; Associate Professor, Women's Studies
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25 Yearsley Mill Road
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Scranton

Paul Perrone

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York

Noel Sloboda

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (*Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin*).

Traditions of Innovation Option: English, B.A. at University Park Campus and Commonwealth Campuses

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15, 30H, or 137H [‡]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
World Language Level 1	4 CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138T [‡]	3
General Education Course (GQ) [†]	3 General Education Course [†]	3
General Education Course [†]	3 World Language Level 2	4
Elective	3 General Education Course [†]	3
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 200 or 201 [*]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3 Elective	3
World Language Level 3	4 General Education Course [†]	3
General Education Course (GQ) [†]	3 General Education Course [†]	3
General Education Course [†]	3 BA Requirement	3
	16	15

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Concentration Course [*]	3 ENGL 4XX [*]	3
ENGL 4XX [*]	3 Concentration Course [*]	3
General Education Course	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D [‡]	3
BA Requirement	3 General Education Course	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 4XX [*]	3 ENGL 4XX [*]	3
Concentration Course [*]	3 ENGL 487W [*]	3
BA Other Cultures	3 General Education Course (GHW)	1.5
BA Requirement	3 General Education Course [†]	3

General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Elective	3
Elective	3	
	16.5	13.5

Total Credits 123

- * Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/>) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/>).

Advising Notes:

- All incoming freshmen must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 cr. and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.

Career Paths

Careers

Our graduates use their training in careers as attorneys, publishers, professional writers, editors, public relations directors, non-profit professionals, foreign service specialists, entrepreneurs, teachers, and education professionals.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE ENGLISH PROGRAM (<https://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/career-enrichment-network/>)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

English majors often go on to postgraduate study not only in English but in areas such as law, medicine, business, education, or liberal arts disciplines.

More information about opportunities for graduate studies can be found through the following websites:

- Association of Departments of English (<https://www.maps.mla.org/About-MAPS/ADE/>)
- Law School Admissions Council (<https://www.lsac.org/>)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (<https://www.aamc.org/>)
- AWP Guide to Writing Programs (https://www.awpwriter.org/guide/guide_writing_programs/)

Professional Resources

- Department Website with information on Major, Minor, concentrations, and other opportunities (<https://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/majors/>)
- Kalliope, Penn State's undergraduate literary magazine (<https://kalliope.psu.edu/>)
- Creative Writing Club, A community for improving and sharing creative writing (<https://sites.psu.edu/creativewritingclub/>)
- W.O.R.D.S., Writers Organized to Represent Diverse Stories (<https://sites.psu.edu/wordspennstate/>)
- Career Enrichment Network, resource for career-related, international, and professional development (<https://la.psu.edu/current-students/career-enrichment-network/>)
- Modern Language Association, Guide for Undergraduate Research (<https://www.mla.org>)
- Conference on College Composition and Communication (<https://cccc.ncte.org/>)
- National Council of Teachers of English (<https://ncte.org/>)
- American Bar Association (<https://www.americanbar.org/>)
- AWP
- American Society of Journalists and Authors (<https://www.asja.org/>)
- National Association of Science Writers (<https://www.nasw.org/>)
- Society for Technical Communication (<https://www.stc.org/>)
- Society of Professional Journalists (<https://www.spj.org/>)
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs (<https://www.awpwriter.org/>)
- American Grant Writers' Association (<http://www.agwa.us/>)
- International Writing Centers Association (<https://writingcenters.org/>)
- TESOL International Association (<https://www.tesol.org/>)

Contact

University Park

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University Park, PA 16802
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<https://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/>

Abington

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<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/english>
(<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/english/>)

Altoona

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/english> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/english/>)

Brandywine

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610-892-1439
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<https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/english>
(<https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/english/>)

Scranton

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<https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/bachelors/english-degree>
(<https://scranton.psu.edu/academics/degrees/bachelors/english-degree/>)

York

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<https://www.york.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/english> (<https://www.york.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/english/>)