ENGLISH, B.A. (ABINGTON)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Abington

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.)

What is English?

English refers to a broad field of study related to the reading, writing, studying and analyzing of English literature and language. The field includes the many and varied forms and genres of literature, writing, and rhetoric, and often considers how value and meaning are created, and information communicated, through these various texts.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You enjoy composing texts that are varied in genre, style, and medium, including critical essays, short stories, poems, reviews, digital media, podcasts, and others.
- You find yourself compelled to make connections between literary texts and ideas that are both present across historical eras and pertinent to current realities.
- You are interested in how audiences treat and use texts, whether the texts are print or digital, technical, critical, and/or creative.
- You want to solve problems through deliberate communication, in arenas that overlap with other areas of human life, like science, law, art, business, and the social sciences.

Degree Requirements

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

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 (http://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.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 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 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 [http://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 ([http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advisingandplanningadegreeprogramtext](http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advisingandplanningadegreeprogramtext)).

**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.

3 of these 24 credits 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.

**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 ([http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44](http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44)).

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better**
In consultation with adviser, select 18 credits in literature, writing, or rhetoric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Critical Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 201</td>
<td>What is Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 3 credits of a 300/400-level course in each of the following areas:</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medieval through Sixteenth Century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth Century through Eighteenth Century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nineteenth Century</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth Century to the Present</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 494H</td>
<td>Senior Thesis in English</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 487</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Integrated B.A./M.A. Program in English**
A minimum of 141 credits are required to complete the IUG B.A./M.A. in English.

The BA in English requires a minimum of 123 credits, with 36 of those credits required for the English major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Critical Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 201</td>
<td>What is Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 221</td>
<td>British Literature to 1798</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 18 credits of English 300 level or above</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 3 credits of pre-1800 300 level or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 3 credits of post-1800 race, ethnic, or minority literatures 300 level or above</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 487</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The B.A./M.A. consists of these 36 English credits of the B.A., plus an additional 24 English credits of M.A. work distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 412</td>
<td>Advanced Fiction Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 413</td>
<td>Advanced Poetry Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 415</td>
<td>Advanced Nonfiction Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 512</td>
<td>The Writing of Fiction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 513</td>
<td>The Writing of Poetry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 515</td>
<td>The Writing of Nonfiction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 6 credits of a graduate-level literature</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete 6 credits of a M.A. Master’s paper (ENGL 596) to support work on a major project that will be the centerpiece of each student’s culminating Master’s paper</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 These courses will be double counted between the B.A. and the M.A.
2 These courses can be repeated for credit.
3 In the Master’s paper, students receiving an M.A. in English with a creative writing concentration will append their Master’s paper with a bibliographic essay referencing primary and/or secondary sources generated by their research for the paper. The essay can discuss the range of research modalities, including contextual background in the work itself as well as contemporary and historic literature that has influenced the style and form of the Master’s paper. Sources consulted for contextual background can include library and database materials, historical research, oral history, interviews, and other bibliographic tools.

**Time of Admission to the Program**
Students shall be admitted to the English IUG program no earlier than the beginning of the third semester of undergraduate study at Penn State.
Plan of Study and Advising

Prior to the application process, students should communicate their intent to enroll in the IUG to the English B.A. adviser and the Director of the B.A./M.A. program. The Director of the B.A./M.A. will help each student identify an appropriate series of English courses to properly prepare each student for the 500-level M.A. workshops and 500-level literature courses.

Students will be expected to maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.3 for all undergraduate coursework and a GPA of 3.6 in English (ENGL) courses throughout the IUG program of study. Failure to do so will result in the student being advised that he/she must regain a GPA of 3.3 within one semester. If the GPA is not 3.3 or higher in general undergraduate coursework and 3.6 or higher in English coursework after that term, the student will be dropped from the IUG.

Each student enrolled in the B.A./M.A. will meet at the beginning of each term with the Director of the B.A./M.A. to discuss his or her progress through the M.A. degree and to make sure that he or she is following the plan established upon his or her admission to the B.A./M.A. program.

If the student decides not to continue on in the IUG, the student may, contingent on fulfilling all other requirements for the B.A. in English, graduate with a B.A. in English.

Sequence of Courses

The IUG B.A./M.A. consists of a total of 60 English credits. A minimum of 141 credits are required to complete the IUG B.A./M.A. in English.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Apply critical, theoretical, and/or disciplinary approaches to the reading and analysis of texts in multiple genres and/or media.
2. Analyze the aesthetic and/or cultural significance of the ideas, values, conventions, forms, and genres associated with texts.
3. 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.
4. Demonstrate writing and rhetorical skills appropriate to critical and/or creative tasks in a variety of media and genres.
5. Analyze representative literary, theoretical, and cultural texts within significant historical, geographical, and cultural contexts.

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 need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

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

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## Suggested Academic Plan

### Abington Campus

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credit</th>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credit</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL literature, writing, or rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 200 or 201</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language level 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credit</th>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credit</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL literature, writing or rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language level 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B.A. Requirement: Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Quantification, or World Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credit</th>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credit</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL literature, writing, or rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>400 level ENGL period selection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 level ENGL period selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL literature, writing, or rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.A. Requirement: Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Quantification, or World Language</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Credit</th>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credit</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 level ENGL period selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>400 level ENGL period selection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL literature, writing, or rhetoric</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 487</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cultures (OC)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.A. Requirement: Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Quantification, or World Language</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 University 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.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

**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 (http://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 (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures).

1. 18 credits in literature, writing, or rhetoric (at least 9 of which must be at the 300/400 level). At least 3 credits at the 300/400-level credits – from either the required or supporting courses – must fulfill a departmental diversity requirement for a course related to race, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, and/or postcolonial issues.

2. ENGL 202B is recommended for English majors. However, other ENGL 202 courses can fulfill this requirement; this selection should be discussed with your adviser.

3. Must select one 400-level course in each of the following areas: Medieval through 16th Century; ENGL 405, 407, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445
   16th century through 18th century—ENGL 405, 437, 439, 440, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448
   The 19th century—ENGL 405, 437, 439, 440, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448

**Additional Notes**

A minimum of 123 credits is required to graduate.

Scheduling patterns vary according to course offerings.

Both US (United States Cultures) and IL (International Cultures) courses must be completed within the degree requirements; these courses may not be used to fulfill the Other Cultures requirement.

ENGL 250 is offered on demand for peer tutors.

The four period requirements are met by different courses each semester. Check the schedule of courses or consult with your adviser or the Program Chair for English to determine which course meets each requirement.

**Career Paths**

**Careers**

Our graduates use their training in careers as attorneys, publishers and writers of all types, public relations directors, foreign service specialists, and entrepreneurs, as well teachers and education professionals.

**Opportunities for Graduate Study**

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

**Professional Resources**

- Department Website with information on Major, Minor, concentrations, and other opportunities (http://english.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/majors)
- Kalliope, Penn State’s undergraduate literary magazine (https://sites.psu.edu/kalliope)
- 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 (http://sites.psu.edu/wordspennstate)
- Career Enrichment Network, resource for career-related, international, and professional development (http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/cen)

**Contact**

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