

ENGLISH, B.HUM.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Description

This English major, with its three options, offers students the unique opportunity to study literature in an interdisciplinary context where the relationships among literature and art, history, music, philosophy, media, and American Studies can be investigated. The major offers courses in American, British, and world literatures, emphasizing their cultural and historical contexts as well as teaching students to interpret them from a variety of critical perspectives. Small classes in both creative and expository writing encourage students to develop their writing skills by working closely with faculty.

Creative Writing Option

Emphasizing original works of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and hybrid genres, the Creative Writing Option provides aspiring authors with a literary foundation in the craft of writing and revising original work, as well as practical skills in editing and publishing in traditional and new media formats.

General English Option

With its emphases on interpretive skills, creativity, and writing, the General English Option provides a foundation for careers in such fields as publishing, public relations, communication, government and law, as well as a strong basis for graduate education.

Secondary Education Option

The Secondary Education Option enables the graduate to meet all the academic requirements for the Instructional I certificate for teaching at the secondary-school level, which is issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Students admitted to the program must have the appropriate clearances. These include FBI fingerprint check, Act 151 child abuse history clearance, and Act 34 criminal record check.

Students thinking seriously about entering the education program should plan their freshman and sophomore years carefully. Semesters 5 through 8 are very structured.

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 analyzing and exploring literature.
- You are interested in creative writing.
- You want to prepare for a professional field where communication is important, such as medicine or law.
- You want a career as an author, editor, journalist, or English teacher.