

ENGLISH, BA

English majors are expected to develop critical thinking skills that manifest themselves abundantly in advanced reading and writing. They are expected to learn how to identify original ideas and then to develop them into a piece of effective writing. Such interests and skills should have wide applicability in the professional world outside of the University.

Admission into the Major

Students may declare a major in English online under the Student tab of myBama. Students are expected to formally declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). If students want, they can also add a concentration (a package of specific 6 upper-level electives) in Digital, Public, and Professional Writing.

Special Opportunities

Special opportunities available in the Department of English include a senior honors thesis option, the Sigma Tau Delta honors society, internships in legal and publishing arenas and with other professional organizations, the undergraduate Writers Guild, and the English Majors and Minors Association. The department also offers a concentration and a minor in Digital, Public, and Professional Writing. In addition, the department offers a number of courses and resources for students interested in public and editing, including the department's own in-house publishing house, Red Rook Press and the journal Dew Point. Contact the department for more information.

Senior Honors Thesis Option

The English Department offers students an independent thesis option in all four of its subfields: literary studies, linguistics, rhetoric and composition, and creative writing. Students with an interest in research and research-based writing and who have completed EN 396 with a minimum grade of a B can apply to enroll in EN 499. Students who complete EN 499 with a grade of an A or A- and who meet GPA standards will be awarded departmental honors for their research-based thesis. Students who wish to write a creative thesis and be eligible through this path for departmental honors should apply to enroll in EN 398 and EN 498, respectively. Students should see the English Department website or contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Director of Undergraduate Creative Writing for additional information.

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society, aims to promote a mastery of written expression, to encourage worthwhile reading, and to foster a spirit of fellowship among its members. Students pursuing a major in English or English education, or pursuing a minor in English or creative writing and who have at least a 3.33 GPA for 12 hours of English and at least 3.0 cumulative GPA are eligible to apply. The society, along with the department, annually makes an award to the English major with the highest overall GPA.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in English must complete all University, College and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other sufficient credits to total a minimum of 120 applicable semester hours.

Code and Title	Hours
Major Courses	
Select three of the following 200 level courses: ¹	9
EN 200 Intro Creative Writing	
EN 201 How Language Works	
EN 205 or English Literature I	
EN 215 Honors English Literature I	
EN 206 or English Literature II	
EN 216 Honors English Literature II	
EN 207 or World Literature I	
EN 217 Honors World Literature I	
EN 208 or World Literature II	
EN 218 Honors World Literature II	
EN 209 or American Literature	
EN 219 Honors American Literature	
EN 210 or American Literature II	
EN 220 Honors American Literature II	
EN 233 Introduction to Shakespeare	
EN 249 or African American Literature I	
EN 251 Honors African American Lit I	
EN 250 or African American Literature II	
EN 252 Honors African American Lit II	
EN 253 Literature and Genre	
EN 254 Lit, Work, and the Professions	
EN 255 Literature and Social Change	
EN 256 Literature and Popular Culture	
EN 280 Data and Society	
Select one of the following pre-1700 courses:	3
EN 330 Chaucer And Medieval Literatur	
EN 332 Sixteenth Century Literature	
EN 333 Shakespeare	
EN 334 Seventeenth Century Literature	
EN 335 Milton	
Select one of the following 1700-1900 courses:	3
EN 340 American Literature To 1900	
EN 343 British Fiction To 1900	
EN 344 Major Authors 1660-1900	
EN 347 English Lit During Enlightenmt	
EN 348 Romantic Literature	
EN 349 Victorian Literature	
Select one of the following Rhetoric and Composition, Linguistics, Methodology, or Writing courses:	3
EN 300 Intro To English Studies	
EN 301 Fiction Writing	
EN 303 Poetry Writing	
EN 305 Creative Nonfiction Writing	
EN 307 Special Topics in Applied CW	
EN 308 Forms Of Creative Writing	
EN 309 Advanced Expository Writing	
EN 310 Special Topics Writing	

EN 313	Writing Across Media	
EN 317	Writing Center Practicum	
EN 319	Technical Writing	
EN 320	Intro To Linguistics	
EN 321	Essential Grammar	
EN 380	Legal Writing	
EN 381	Science Writing	
EN 382	Business Writing	
EN 383	Book and Print Design	
EN 396	Research and Writing Seminar	
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
Electives ²		
	Select four EN elective courses at the 400 level	12
	Select two EN elective courses at the 300 or 400 level	6
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	18
Total Hours		36

Footnotes

¹ At least one (1) of the three (3) required 200 level EN courses must be from EN 205 English Literature I, (or EN 215 Honors English Literature I), EN 206 English Literature II, (or EN 216 Honors English Literature II), EN 207 World Literature I, (or EN 217 Honors World Literature I), EN 208 World Literature II, (or EN 218 Honors World Literature II), EN 209 American Literature, (or EN 219 Honors American Literature), EN 210 American Literature II (or EN 220 Honors American Literature II), EN 249 African American Literature I, (or EN 251 Honors African American Lit I), EN 250 African American Literature II, (or EN 252 Honors African American Lit II).

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- No course may be taken for elective credit more than twice.
 - No more than 3 of the 18 elective hours may be fulfilled by EN 301 Fiction Writing or EN 303 Poetry Writing or EN 305 Creative Nonfiction Writing or EN 307 Special Topics in Applied CW or EN 308 Forms Of Creative Writing.
 - No more than 3 of the 18 elective hours may be fulfilled by EN 380 Legal Writing
 - No more than 3 of the 18 elective hours may be fulfilled by EN 408 Advanced Creative Writing.
 - A section of EN 301 Fiction Writing or EN 303 Poetry Writing or EN 305 Creative Nonfiction Writing or EN 307 Special Topics in Applied CW or EN 308 Forms of Creative Writing or EN 313 or EN 317 Writing Center Practicum or EN 408 Advanced Creative Writing used as credit toward the English Major cannot also count toward the Creative Writing Minor.
 - See the Department's web site for suggested paths to guide you through the English major.

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. The major GPA is calculated based on all courses applicable to the major that the student has attempted at UA. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation of grade point average calculations.

Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

Additional Major Requirements

EN 430 English Internship can be applied to the major in English. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University and College major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an advisor in the major department for academic planning and to be cleared for registration each semester. College advisers are also available for additional assistance with College and University minor requirements.

Digital, Public, and Professional Writing Concentration

Code and Title	Hours
Select 6 hours:	6
Rhetoric and Composition	
EN 309	Advanced Expository Writing
EN 310	Special Topics Writing
EN 313	Writing Across Media
EN 317	Writing Center Practicum
EN 319	Technical Writing
EN 380	Legal Writing
EN 381	Science Writing
EN 382	Business Writing
EN 383	Book and Print Design
EN 384	Grant Writing
Linguistics (unless being used toward a Linguistics Minor)	
EN 320	Intro To Linguistics
EN 321	Essential Grammar
Methodology	
EN 300	Intro To English Studies
Creative Writing (unless being used toward a Creative Writing Minor)	
EN 305	Creative Nonfiction Writing
EN 307	Special Topics in Applied CW
Select 12 hours of 400 level elective courses:	
EN 408	Advanced Creative Writing ¹
EN 423	History of the Eng Lang
EN 430	English Internship
EN 432	Capstone Course: Composition-R
EN 455	Capstone Course: Adv St Writin

Footnotes

¹ Only 1 EN 408 Advanced Creative Writing will apply to the concentration, although exceptions will be considered for additional EN 408 Advanced Creative Writing courses pertaining to non-fiction, non-poetry, public or digital writing; no more than 6 hours may be filled by the same course number.

Courses counted towards the Major and Professional Writing Concentration cannot also count towards the English, Creative Writing, Linguistics, or Professional Writing Minors.

The career opportunities for those majoring in English are numerous. There are various opportunities for those who would like to go for graduate work and countless opportunities in the field of teaching, from elementary up through higher education and even for teaching English abroad. An English major is also a customary route for those seeking admission to law school. It is becoming an increasingly common route

for admission to business or medical schools. It has always been a favorite for those employers who value advanced reading, writing, and editing skills.

Types of Jobs Accepted

Advanced reading and writing skills have led to employment in a variety of jobs. English majors often pursue graduate work in English (Penn, UCLA, Virginia, Georgetown, Cornell, North Carolina (Chapel Hill), Florida, Texas (Austin), and Toronto). Others have pursued law degrees at institutions such as Yale, Harvard, Duke, Michigan, Virginia, and Alabama. Others have gone on to receive medical degrees from such respected institutions as UAB, University of Virginia and USA. Alumni include Rhodes scholars, Mellon fellows, Fulbright scholars, published writers of considerable distinction and achievement, and even a couple of authors of best sellers.

Jobs of Experienced Alumni

Alumni include, as might be expected, countless teachers, instructors, and professors, as well as numerous writers of distinction. Alumni also include, as might not be expected, doctors, lawyers, business executives, and people of accomplishment in all walks of life.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center