

Department of English

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The study of English not only gives students knowledge of language and literature but also helps to develop their ability to read perceptively, think critically, analyze problems, and write correctly and persuasively. For this reason, a major in English has traditionally been viewed as good training for careers in law, government, business, and publishing, as well as for careers in teaching and writing.

The department offers an undergraduate major (B.A.); undergraduate minors in English, creative writing, film studies, linguistics, and TESOL; and an M.A. The department also edits and publishes two distinguished journals. *Mississippi Quarterly* is a refereed scholarly journal dedicated to the life and culture of the American South, past and present. *Jabberwock Review* is a literary journal publishing stories, poems, and essays by writers across the country. Additionally, the department operates the university Writing Center to assist all MSU students with their writing.

The Department of English awards a number of scholarships annually, hosts the Xi Kappa Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society, and sponsors several writing contests.

In addition to two semesters of freshman composition, which the department recommends be taken at the Accelerated or Honors level, English majors take four 2000-level literature surveys, EN 3414, and at least 21 additional hours of English electives, of which 15 hours must be 4000 level and taken in residence, distributed among three categories: Literature and Culture: Periods and Figures; Literature and Culture: Cultural Geographies; and Theory, Genre, and Methods.

English majors must attain a C or better in all English courses at the 2000 level or above in order for those courses to count toward the requirements of the major.

Students seeking secondary-school teaching certification should consult with an English Education advisor.

English minors take at least 18 hours of English electives with a grade of C or better beyond completion of the freshman composition requirement of their major. Of these hours, at least six must be at the 4000 level; these must be completed in residence. No more than six hours may be linguistics classes, i.e., classes which count toward the linguistics minor. No more than two classes may be classes which count toward the minor in Film Studies. Students who are earning the Creative Writing minor must complete 12 hours of English classes in addition to the requirements for that minor in order to earn the English minor as well. Students pursuing the English minor should consult the English major advisor to plan a minor program which will complement their major studies and career interests.

BA in English

General Education Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3-4
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Creative Discovery

See A&S core	3
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Humanities

History - A&S core	6
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Social/Behavioral Sciences

See A&S core	6
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Quantitative Reasoning

See A&S core	3
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Natural Sciences

Life Science w/Lab - A&S core	3-4
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Physical Science w/Lab - A&S core	3-4
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Natural Science w/Lab - A&S core	3-4
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College Requirements & Major Core

Additional College Requirements

Foreign Language

Foreign Language I	3
Foreign Language II	3
Foreign Language III	3

Additional Humanities

Philosophy - A&S core	3
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Additional Social Sciences

Social Science Electives ¹	12
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Oral Communication

CO 1003	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3
or CO 1013	Introduction to Communication	

Major Core

Fourth semester in chosen Foreign Language		3
Upper Division A&S Humanities (HI, FL, PHI) or Study Abroad Elective		3
EN 1111	English Studies	1
EN 3414	Critical Writing and Research in Literary Studies	4
EN 4111	Portfolios and Reflective Writing	1
Choose four of the literature surveys below, including at least one focused on each of the following; English literature, American literature, pre-1800 literature, post-1800 literature. (A single course may satisfy multiple criteria simultaneously.)		12
EN 2213	English Literature Before 1800	
EN 2223	English Literature After 1800	
EN 2243	American Literature Before 1865	
EN 2253	American Literature After 1865	
EN 2263	Multiethnic U.S. Literature	
EN 2363	Introduction to African American Literature	

Upper Division Requirements

Literature and Culture: Periods and Figures

Choose two of the following:		6
EN 4503	Shakespeare	
EN 4513	Shakespeare	
EN 4523	Chaucer	
EN 4533	Milton	
EN 4643	The Eighteenth-Century British Novel	
EN 4653	The Nineteenth-Century British Novel	
EN 4663	British and Irish Novel Since 1900	
EN 4703	English Literature of the Sixteenth Century	
EN 4713	English Literature of the Seventeenth Century	
EN 4723	British Literature and Culture from 1600-1700	
EN 4733	British Literature and Culture of the Eighteenth Century	
EN 4883	Victorian Poets and Prose Writers	
EN 4893	American Literature to 1800	
EN 4903	Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature	
EN 4933	Survey of Contemporary Literature	

Literature and Culture: Cultural Geographies

Choose one of the following:		3
EN 4333	Southern Literature	
EN 4343	Studies in African American Literature	
EN 4363	Studies in Global Anglophone Literatures	
EN 4383	Digital Ethnic Studies	
EN 4393	Postcolonial Literature and Theory	

EN 4813	The World Novel Since 1900	
Theory, Genre, and Methods		
Choose one of the following:		3
EN 4323	Literary Criticism from Plato-Present	
EN 4353	Critical Theory Since 1900	
EN 4803	Types of Drama Since 1900	
EN 4823	Poetry Since 1900	
EN 4833	The Short Story	
EN 4923	American Novel Since 1900	
EN 4924	Film Theory	
EN 4943	Form and Theory of Fiction	
EN 4953	Form and Theory of Poetry	
4000-Level Literature Elective		
Choose one more course listed above under Periods and Figures, Cultural Geographies, or Theory, Genre, and Methods		3
Fields of English Studies		
Choose one of the following:		3
EN 3243	Writing Center Tutor Training	
EN 3303	Creative Writing	
EN 3313	Writing for the Workplace	
EN 3333	Internship in English	
EN 3423	Descriptive English Grammar	
EN 3803	Intermediate Poetry Writing	
EN 3903	Intermediate Fiction Writing	
EN 4124	Topics in Film	
EN 4223	Principles of Legal Writing	
EN 4233	Composition Pedagogy	
EN 4303	Craft of Poetry	
EN 4313	Craft of Fiction	
EN 4403	Introduction to Linguistics	
EN 4413	History of the English Language	
EN 4433	Approaches to TESOL	
EN 4443	English Syntax	
EN 4453	Methods in TESOL	
EN 4463	Studies in Second Language Acquisition	
EN 4473	Phonetics	
EN 4493	TESOL Practicum	
EN 4623	Language and Culture	
EN 4633	Language and Society	
English Elective		
any EN course		3
Jr/Sr Writing		
Satisfied within the major		
Free Electives		
Consult advisor		15-19
Total Hours		124

Note: Students must earn a grade of C or higher in all English courses at the 2000 level or above.

Students must complete 31 upper division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. Additionally, all English majors must earn 15 hours of Literature courses at the 4000 level in residence.

¹ Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed.

Linguistics Minor

Linguistics is the study of language, including the structure of sounds, words, and sentences, how our brains process it, how people learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. Studying linguistics raises students' awareness of patterns in the language of their daily lives and can contribute to careers such as language teaching, editing and publishing, speech therapy, advertising, and more.

The Minor in Linguistics is open to undergraduate students in any major except General Liberal Arts with a focus in Linguistics.

The minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. In addition to the courses listed below, up to two Special Topics or Directed Individual Study courses will count toward the minor when approved in advance by the Linguistics Committee. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.

Required Course		3
EN/AN 4403	Introduction to Linguistics	
Minor Core Courses		9-15
EN/AN 2403	Introduction to the Study of Language	
EN 3423	Descriptive English Grammar ¹	
EN 4413	History of the English Language	
EN 4443	English Syntax ¹	
EN 4463	Studies in Second Language Acquisition	
EN/PSY 4473	Phonetics	
EN/AN/SO 4623	Language and Culture	
EN/AN/SO 4633	Language and Society	
Minor Electives		0-6
AN 1103	Introduction to Anthropology	
AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
AN 4143	Ethnographic Methods	
CO 4203	Nonverbal Communication	
CO 4273	Intercultural Communication	
CSE 3813	Introduction to Formal Languages and Automata	
PHI 1113	Introduction to Logic	
PHI 4223	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	
PSY 3713	Cognitive Psychology ²	
PSY 3723		
PSY 4653	Cognitive Science ²	
PSY 4713	Language and Thought	
Total Hours		18

¹ Only one of EN 3423 or EN 4443 may count toward the minor.

² Only one of PSY 3713 or PSY 4653 may count toward the minor.

Creative Writing Minor

The minor in creative writing will focus on the study of poetry and fiction writing, including the learning of techniques, forms, and approaches of creative expression. Creative writing offers students the opportunity to use language as a means of making art that explores the complexity of human experience. A background in creative writing prepares students for a variety of future paths, including teaching, editing, publishing, law, advertising, public relations, and any career that places emphasis on the written word.

The minor requires 18 semester hours (six courses) with a grade of C or above in each course. Transfer credit awarded if approved by the Director of the Creative Writing program.

Required Course		9
EN 3303	Creative Writing	
EN 3803	Intermediate Poetry Writing	
EN 3903	Intermediate Fiction Writing	
Choose one or two of the following:		3-6
EN 4303	Craft of Poetry	

EN 4313	Craft of Fiction	
Choose one or two of the following (depending on major):		3-6
English Majors		
EN 4943	Form and Theory of Fiction	
EN 4953	Form and Theory of Poetry	
Non-English Majors		
See advisor for list of approved electives		
Total Hours		18

Film Studies Minor

The minor in Film Studies provides students with a strong background in the study of film language, history, theory, and production, emphasizing varied filmmaking practices throughout the world. Students will gain a proficiency in what filmmakers call "film language" and a working knowledge of film form. Students will be able to apply film language to the analysis of film, literature and art, and convergent media technologies. Students will learn the specificity of global film traditions through comparative study, will be introduced to the basics of film theory and production, and will gain knowledge of the economic, social, cultural, and historical roots of cinema from diverse parts of the world.

Required Course		4
ART/CO/EN 2904	Introduction to Film	
Core Courses (select at least one core course from the list below. Students may take additional core courses to meet the electives requirement.)		3
CO 3903	Advanced Cinema Studies	
ART/CO/EN 4124	Topics in Film	
ART/CO/EN 4924	Film Theory	
Electives		12
ART 2103	Photography Survey	
ART 3233	Studio Lighting	
ART 3613	Art and Film	
ART 3633	History of Photography	
ART 3643	Art of the Graphic Novel	
ART 3873	Digital Photography	
ART 4893	Video Art	
CO 2503	Acting	
CO 3403	Photographic Communication	
CO/GS 4233	Gender and Media	
CO 4423	Advanced Photo Communication	
CO 4504		
CO 4524		
CO/AAS/SO 4643	Race and the Media	
EN 2434	Literature and Film	
EN 3523	Shakespeare and Film	
Total Hours		19

¹ Only one of EN 3423 or EN 4443 may count toward the minor.

² Only one of PSY 3713 or PSY 4653 may count toward the minor.

Certificate in TESOL

The certificate in Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is designed to provide students with the theoretical and practical knowledge needed to begin a career in English language teaching. The program requires 15 credit hours (5 courses) in linguistics and English language teaching methods that introduce students to basic methods of linguistic analysis and principles of communicative language teaching. Students who earn the certificate will be prepared to teach English as a foreign language in countries outside the United States and English as a second language in positions inside the United States that do not require a teacher's license. The TESOL certificate alone does not lead to a K-12 teaching license, which is required to teach in the public school system in the U.S., but it can be added as an ESL supplemental endorsement to an existing or in-progress teaching license.

The certificate program is open to undergraduate and graduate students in good standing who are currently enrolled at the university in any major. The graduate-level certificate program is also open to non-degree-seeking students who have completed a bachelor's degree in any major.

The program requires a minimum of 15 hours with a grade of C or better in each course. Graduate students are required to attain a minimum GPA of 3.0 for their coursework.

Students must take the following courses in theoretical background:

EN 4403/6403	Introduction to Linguistics	3
EN 4463/6463	Studies in Second Language Acquisition	3
EN 4443/6443	English Syntax	3
Students must take two of the following courses in pedagogy:		6

EN 4433/6433	Approaches to TESOL	
EN 4453/6453	Methods in TESOL	
EN 4493/6493	TESOL Practicum	
Total Hours		15