

English

Undergraduates who major or minor in English explore literature as readers and writers in small classes that focus on the individual student. With exposure to our wide array of course topics and intellectual approaches, alumni of the English department have succeeded in top-notch graduate programs in English and creative writing as well as in law, business, medicine, journalism, and government.

Preparation for the English major begins at the first-year level. In both the fall and spring semesters, first-year seminars of 15 students or fewer are led by distinguished faculty on subjects such as detective fiction, literature and justice, the invention of romantic love, and the cultural history of the American university. Majors go on to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the history and criticism of literature written in English. Our department's commitment to cross-fertilizing creative and critical literacy is genuine and longstanding. Home to a strong and rigorous MFA program that fosters a close-knit community of talented writers in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, the department offers an undergraduate minor in writing as well as a major with a specialization in creative writing. English students frequently enroll in creative writing workshops or classes in advanced rhetoric, and three such courses may count toward the regular English major.

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