ENGLISH

The discipline of English is shaped historically by the study of literature and conceptually by the understanding of written texts in all their many forms. Its foundations are the theory and practice of critical reading, literary analysis, and effective writing. The major is designed to build an inclusive knowledge of literature, to develop skills required for the critical interpretation of texts, and to teach the principles of critical and creative writing.

The major emphasizes the historical reach of literary study through its historical distribution requirement. The theory requirement introduces influential concepts and debates underlying the study of language, literature, and their cultural impact. The range of electives and seminars that make up the bulk of the curriculum allows for flexibility in designing individual majors while ensuring a comprehensive grasp of the varieties of literary study.

Premised on the belief that the study of literature and the practice of writing are mutually reinforcing the major with a Creative Writing concentration, emphasizes the interrelations among creative writing, digital media, criticism, and scholarship. As an integrated concentration in the English department with a dual focus on literature and creative work, the Creative Writing concentration combines literature courses, small writing workshops, and practical industry training to prepare students for advanced study or careers in writing, media, and publishing. In addition, our concentrators benefit from the resources provided by New York City, a worldwide center for literary publishing.

Honors Thesis

The department offers an honors thesis option in English for senior English majors with a 3.6 GPA or higher in English who wish to complete an ambitious project under the direction of a faculty member.

If you are interested, you should discuss this option with the associate chair and then choose a member of the faculty as an advisor for the thesis prior to the semester in which the thesis will be completed. The associate chair will then authorize you to register for ENGL 4998, a four-credit Honors Tutorial. This course does not count for credit toward the English major or the English major with a creative writing concentration, though it does count as an elective toward graduation. The professor sponsoring the project will set up parameters and deadlines at his or her discretion. You will write your thesis over the course of one semester, at the end of which there will be an honors defense with the advisor and one departmental reader. That committee then evaluates whether the thesis defense qualifies you to graduate with departmental honors.

The English Major and the Rose Hill Honors Program:

Students in the Rose Hill Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 and ENGL 2000) by taking HPRH 1001. Rose Hill Honors Program students who major in English may count two Honors Program courses toward the major. HPRH 1051 will count as one of the required Historical Distribution courses. HPRH 2051 will count as a regular elective in the major. The Honors Program thesis project does not count as course credit toward the English major.

The English Major and the Lincoln Center Honors Program:

Students in the Lincoln Center Honors Program fulfill the first-level Core English requirements (ENGL 1102 and ENGL 2000) by taking HPLC 1201 and HPLC 1811. HPLC 4500 THESIS WORKSHOP can, with the approval of the associate chair, count for elective credit in the major. HPLC 4050 HONORS: SENIOR VALUES SEMINAR can also count for the major when it is taught by English or Comparative Literature faculty.

Early Admission to Master’s Program

Please read the Early Admission to Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Master’s Programs section, which is located under the heading of Special Academic Programs in the chapter on Academic Programs, Policies, and Procedures of this bulletin. The English director of graduate studies, in consultation with the undergraduate program heads, selects second semester juniors who are invited to apply for early admission to the M.A. program. Students must formally indicate their desire to opt for early admission into the M.A. program and submit a two-page statement of purpose by March 15. Applications do not need to include GRE scores unless the student is planning to apply for financial aid after completing their bachelor’s. In order to qualify for invitation, students must have a minimum 3.2 overall grade point average, at least a 3.5 average in their English courses, and the recommendation of two English faculty.

This policy applies to FCRH, FCLC, and PCS. Three courses count toward the student’s undergraduate and graduate degrees, fulfilling both English major and master’s-level requirements. Graduate courses taken while still at the College must be approved by the director of graduate studies of the department. Seniors take a total of three 5000-level graduate courses during their final two undergraduate semesters. After the B.A., students take three 5000-level or 6000-level graduate courses in the fall and three in the spring. Students also must complete a capstone project and demonstrate reading knowledge of one foreign language to graduate. Applications are made online through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website.

For more information

Visit the English department web page.

Contribution to the Core

The English department offers ENGL 1102 COMPOSITION II, which fulfills the core curriculum requirement in composition and rhetoric. Students who do not place in ENGL 1102 upon admission are required to take ENGL 1101 COMPOSITION I, in which they must receive a grade of C or better before they are allowed to advance to ENGL 1102. The department also offers ENGL 2000 TEXTS AND CONTEXTS, which fulfills the core requirement in English literature and counts toward the distributive requirement in Eloquenta Perfecta 2. Unless otherwise specified, nonmajors may take the department’s elective (major) offerings toward the core requirement in Advanced Disciplinary Courses in Literature. In addition, English offers courses that fulfill the following Core requirements: American Pluralism; Global Studies; Eloquenta Perfecta (EP) 3 & 4; Interdisciplinary Capstone (ICC) and Values.

English courses and Advanced Placement Credits: AP Credits in English Literature and in English Language count toward a student’s total number of credits in the college but not within the major. A score of 4 or 5 in AP English Literature will count towards college elective credits. All students are required to take Composition II and Texts and Contexts/Eloquenta Perfecta 2.

Updated: 04-12-2019
Programs

Majors

- English Major
- English Major with a Creative Writing Concentration

Minors

- Creative Writing Minor
- English Minor