The study of English is for anyone who wants to understand literature and all forms of texts and media. The foundation of the English program lies in 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 range of electives and seminars that make up the bulk of the curriculum allows for flexibility in designing individual majors, while also giving students a comprehensive grasp of the varieties of literature and 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. Both those majoring and minoring in English benefit from the resources provided by New York City, a worldwide center for literary activity and publishing.

Program Activities

Events

The Department of English organizes a variety of events, which include lectures and readings given by the Reid Family Writer of Color, the Writer-at-Risk in Residence, the Mary Higgins Clark Chair in Creative Writing, and participants in the Poets Out Loud Reading Series. They also include LitFest, the Golden Gloves Literary Competition, field trips, tea parties, and an informal professor/student book club.

Internships

We encourage students to take advantage of the many internship opportunities that New York City offers. English majors have held internships at magazines and newspapers, television companies, publishing houses, marketing firms, theaters, museums, law offices, advertising companies, fashion studios, technology startups, and political organizations. Credits received for internships count toward the total number of credits required for graduation but not toward requirements for the English major or minor.

Prizes and Scholarships

The department awards several creative and critical writing prizes to students. It also awards scholarships to majors who have demonstrated academic merit and financial need or plan to pursue graduate study in English or a related field.

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society

Sigma Tau Delta is an International Honor Society for students of English. Founded in 1924, with approximately 9,000 members inducted annually, the society strives to confer distinction for high achievement in English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies; provide cultural stimulation on college campuses; promote interest in literature and the English language in surrounding communities; and serve society by fostering literacy. The Alpha Chi Omicron chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Fordham was founded in 2017.

Honors Options

Departmental Honors

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 and graduate with departmental honors.

If you are interested, you should discuss this option with the associate chair and choose a member of the faculty as an adviser 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 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which counts as an elective toward the major. The professor sponsoring the project will set up parameters and deadlines at their discretion. You will write your thesis over the course of one semester, at the end of which there will be a defense of the thesis with the adviser and one departmental reader. That committee then evaluates whether the thesis defense qualifies you to graduate with departmental honors.

The English Major and the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program

For students in the Class of 2022 and earlier: Students in the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 and ENGL 2000) by taking HPLC 1811 and HPLC 1201. Additionally, those students who are writing a senior thesis under the supervision of an English faculty member must register for ENGL 4998 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which will count toward the major. Please see the associate chair to register for ENGL 4998. HPLC 4050 Honors: Senior Values Seminar also can count toward the major when it is taught by English or comparative literature faculty.

For students in the Class of 2023 and beyond: Students in the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 and ENGL 2000) by taking HPLC 1811 and HPLC 1201. Since ENGL 2000 will count toward the English major beginning in fall 2019, HPLC 1201 will count toward the major for those Lincoln Center Honors Program students who major in English. Additionally, those students who are writing a senior thesis under the supervision of an English faculty member must register for ENGL 4998 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which will count toward the major. Please see the associate chair to register for ENGL 4998. HPLC 4050 Honors: Senior Values Seminar also can count toward the major when it is taught by English or comparative literature faculty.

The English Major and the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program

For students in the Class of 2022 and earlier: Students in the Fordham College at 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 counts as one of the required Historical Distribution courses, and HPRH 2051 counts as a regular elective for the major. Additionally, those students who write a senior thesis under the supervision of an English faculty member register for ENGL 4998 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which will count toward the major and fulfill the Honors Program requirement HPRH 4001 Senior Thesis. Please see the associate chair to register for ENGL 4998, and also
inform the director of the Honors Program after you have registered so that it can count for HPRH 4001.

For students in the Class of 2023 and beyond: Students in the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 and ENGL 2000) by taking HPRH 1102. Since ENGL 2000 will count for the English major beginning in fall 2019, HPRH 1102 will count for the major for those Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program students who major in English. Moreover, Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program students who major in English may count two additional Honors Program courses toward the major: HPRH 1202 counts as one of the required Historical Distribution courses, and HPRH 3101 counts either as a regular elective for the major or as one of the required Historical Distribution courses, depending on the focus of the course. Those students who write a senior thesis under the supervision of an English faculty member also register for ENGL 4998 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which will count toward the major and fulfill the Honors Program requirement HPRH 4101 Senior Thesis Seminar. Please see the associate chair to register for ENGL 4998, and also inform the director of the Honors Program after you have registered so that it can count for HPRH 4101.

Early Admission to the Master's Program in English

Please read the Early Admission to Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Master's Programs section, which is located under the Special Academic Programs header in the Academic Programs, Policies, and Procedures chapter of this bulletin. The English director of graduate studies, in consultation with the associate chairs, invites select second-semester juniors 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 degree. In order to qualify for invitation, students must have a minimum 3.2 overall GPA, at least a 3.5 average GPA in their English courses, and the recommendation of two English faculty members.

This policy applies to FCRH, FCLC, and PCS. Three graduate courses can double count toward the student’s undergraduate and graduate degrees, fulfilling both undergraduate English major and master’s-level requirements. Graduate courses taken while the student is still an undergraduate must be approved by the director of graduate studies. Seniors take a total of three 5000-level graduate courses during their final two undergraduate semesters. After completing the B.A. in senior year, students then take three 5000- 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 into 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. All students are required to take Composition II and Texts and Contexts/Eloquenta Perfecta 2.

Unless otherwise specified, non-majors may take the department’s elective (major) offerings toward the core requirement in Advanced Disciplinary Courses in Literature. In addition, the Department of English offers various courses that fulfill core requirements in American Pluralism, Global Studies, Eloquenta Perfecta (EP) 3 and 4, Interdisciplinary Capstone (ICC), and Values.

Programs

Majors

• English Major
• English Major with a Creative Writing Concentration

Minors

• Creative Writing Minor
• English Minor

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