

ENGLISH

The study of English is for anyone who wants to understand literature and all forms of texts and media. No discipline better prepares its students to understand diverse cultural forms, to craft persuasive arguments, and to write lucidly and beautifully. 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.

In addition to the regular major, the English department offers a major with a creative writing concentration that 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.

The department also offers three minors open to students in any major. The English minor allows students to explore literature and other forms of media. The creative writing minor gives students the opportunity to explore their creative abilities. And the public and professional writing minor equips students with critical and rhetorical skills for analyzing and producing written, digital, and visual texts for real-world purposes and audiences.

Those majoring or minoring in any program offered by the English department 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 any program offered by the English department.

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 or the director of creative writing, as well as with a potential faculty adviser, and then submit an application to write a thesis prior to the semester in which the thesis will be completed. To write a thesis in the spring semester, you must submit the application by October 15 of the previous semester; to write a thesis in the fall semester, you must submit the application by March 1 of the previous semester. If your application is approved, the associate chair or the director of creative writing will authorize you to register for ENGL 4998 English Honors Thesis Tutorial, which counts as an elective toward the major. 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. For more information, see Degrees and Details/Departmental Honors in English.

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

Students in the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 Composition II and ENGL 2000 Texts and Contexts) by taking HPLC 1811 Honors: Writing Intensive and HPLC 1201 Honors: English. ENGL 2000 counts toward the English major, and HPLC 1201 Honors: English counts 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 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 can also 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

Students in the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program fulfill the first-level core English requirements (ENGL 1102 Composition II and ENGL 2000 Texts and Contexts) by taking HPRH 1102 Foundational Texts: Theology/Classics. ENGL 2000 Texts and Contexts counts for the English major, and HPRH 1102 Foundational Texts: Theology/Classics counts 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 Foundational Texts: Literature 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 can also count HPRH 4001 Senior Thesis as a regular elective for the major. Please inform the associate chair if you would like to count HPRH 4001 Senior Thesis towards the major.

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

Students in the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program may count HPRH 1102 Foundational Texts: Theology/Classics toward the minor as fulfilling the Texts & Contexts requirement.

The Public and Professional Writing Minor and the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program

Students in the Fordham College at Rose Hill Honors Program may count HPRH 1102 Foundational Texts: Theology/Classics toward the minor as fulfilling the Texts & Contexts requirement.

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

Students in the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program may count HPLC 1201 Honors: English towards the minor.

The Public and Professional Writing Minor and the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program

Students in the Fordham College at Lincoln Center Honors Program may count HPLC 1201 Honors: English toward the minor.

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 in the Special Academic Programs section 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.