Program Overview
The Department of English seeks to enlarge and refine the imaginative intelligence of its students—to enrich their intellectual lives as well as to help them develop their professional ones. The disciplined study of both literature and professional writing and speaking provides the means to those ends. Although the variety of the curriculum makes possible a student-determined emphasis on one or the other of these concentrations, the program requires competence in both. The English major offers both a humane and a liberalizing experience, while at the same time making available to its students the opportunity to acquire and practice the skills in professional writing and speaking that will enhance their careers.

For students who select the study of literature as their major concentration, the Department seeks to give an introduction to the most formative traditions—generic, historical, and critical—of British and American letters. Critical and analytical skills are developed by courses and seminars which offer an in-depth examination of a single author or specific topic. Because of their innate value in fostering intellectual maturity and as a preparation for more advanced study, the fundamentals of research will be systematically made available.

For those who emphasize the Professional Writing and Speaking concentration, the program stresses the study of the theories and techniques of rhetoric as they are applied in particular professional fields including business communications, advertising, public relations, and journalism. Many of the courses in this program are offered in an accelerated format, i.e., in modules of eight weeks. Frequent practice in these techniques encourages students to communicate coherently, imaginatively, and with impact.

Learning Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1:** Acquire knowledge of significant texts in the British, Irish, American, and Anglophone literary traditions.

**Objective 1.1:** Students will demonstrate a familiarity with British, Irish, American, and Anglophone key texts and an understanding of the historical continuities among literary conventions and imaginative traditions.

**Goal 2:** Develop rhetorical skills.

**Objective 2.1:** Students will recognize and use various rhetorical modes, including (but not limited to) narrative, exposition, analysis, and argument.

**Goal 3:** Develop creative abilities.

**Objective 3.1:** Students will exercise their imaginations in crafting their own creative works and performances, particularly through creative writing workshops and theatre courses.

**Goal 4:** Acquire knowledge of significant schools of literary theory.

**Objective 4.1:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of literary theory and draw upon these models for their own literary analyses.

**Objective 4.2:** Students will formulate their own theories about what literature is and does.

**Goal 5:** Acquire knowledge of research fundamentals in English.

**Objective 5.1:** Students will locate, assess, and incorporate secondary sources (including electronic ones) into their own arguments.

**Goal 6:** Develop revision strategies and editing skills.

**Objective 6.1:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of revision.

**Objective 6.2:** Students will practice editing skills through examining their own writing and the writing of their peers.

Requirements for the B.A. in English and Professional Writing (offered through PLS)

General Education Program Courses (See Curricula.)

**GEP Integrative Learning Component:** Two courses
Any two courses offered through the College of Arts & Sciences (not English Courses). Students are encouraged to discuss these choices with their faculty advisor in the English Department.
Major Concentration Courses:

- One course in British Literature before 1832 or American Literature before 1860
- One course in British/Irish/World Literature course
- One course in American Literature course
- One Writing course (creative, journalism, rhetoric, pedagogy)
- Six major Electives. Students may choose to pursue a track in Literature or a track in Professional Writing and Speaking.

Lower Division English Courses

**ENG 103 Communication Skills (3 credits)**
Fundamental principles of clear and effective writing: selection, organization, development, expression. Elementary instruction and practice in narrative, descriptive, and expository prose. For students who have lower than a B in transfer credits for ENG 101 or equivalent or who would like additional writing instruction before going on to more advanced writing courses.

**ENG 111 Exposition and Argumentation (3 credits)**
Principles and practice of both written and oral expression as they are related to the effective selection, organization, and development of ideas. Attention will be given to several modes of writing and speaking, with special emphasis on the expository and the argumentative. Students will study composing as a continuous process—brainstorming, rough drafts, several revisions, the finished product.
*Prerequisite: ENG 103.*

**ENG 112 Research Based Writing (PWS 112) (3 credits)**
Emphasizing process and product through three significant research assignments, Research Writing teaches students to: conduct academically-based and workplace-based research; use traditional and technological library resources; read, analyze, compare and evaluate existing research and ideas; integrate sources while maintaining voice and syntactic fluency; document appropriately; conduct original research (such as surveys and interviews); present results in clearly written, skillfully organized and well documented papers; and effectively deliver oral presentations. Students will be expected to provide feedback to other writers, incorporate critical feedback into their own writing, produce multiple drafts of papers, and further sharpen their writing skills.
*Prerequisite ENG 101 or ENG 103 or ENG 111.*

**ENG 113 Literature and Composition (3 credits)**
Introduction to fiction, drama, and poetry with frequent theme assignments, critical in nature and coordinated with readings in major literary genres.
*Prerequisites: ENG 101 or ENG 111. Signature Course.*

**ENG 201 Major American Writers (3 credits)**
Study of selected works of those writers who have most influenced the continuity and development of our national literature. Among those considered may be Irving, Poe, Emerson, Fuller, Hawthorne, Stowe, Melville, Whitman, Twain, Dickinson, Chopin, Gilman, Frost, Hemingway, Faulkner, and Morrison.
*Prerequisite: ENG 113.*

**ENG 202 Fiction (3 credits)**
Extensive and intensive readings primarily in fiction. Although continental writers may be included, the emphasis will be on English and American authors. Students will be required to write critical essays based upon readings in the course.
*Prerequisite: ENG 111.*

**ENG 204 Drama (3 credits)**
Critical study of various forms of drama.
*Prerequisite: ENG 113.*

**ENG 205 Cultural Diversity (3 credits)**
Specific focus of the course will depend on the instructor. Approaches to the issue of cultural diversity in literature may include the following courses such as the following: Chinese-American Literature and Culture; American Voices; British Multiculturalism and the Booker Prize, Gay and Lesbian Narratives. Diversity.

**ENG 206 Public Speaking and Presentation: Rhetoric in Modern Practice (3 credits)**
A practical course in the oral presentation of carefully crafted material. Based on principles of rhetoric, new and old, the course helps students in discovering, structuring, and expressing ideas with conviction and confidence. Some attention will be given to the appreciation of significant speech texts within these rhetorical traditions. Students will make multiple presentations and engage in peer critiques.

Upper Division English Courses

**ENG 221 Background for English Studies (3 credits)**
A study of major classical and continental works significant for and influential in the development of English and American literature.

**ENG 223 The British Tradition (3 credits)**
A selection of representative major figures (excluding Shakespeare) from Anglo-Saxon times to the twentieth century. The course helps students develop the ability to respond to the literary expression of earlier periods by the close reading of texts and an understanding of the continuity and growth of the tradition.

**ENG 271 Writing for the World Wide Web (3 Credits)**
Investigation of the World Wide Web from a writer’s perspective, with consideration for new vistas of identity, politics, artistic expression, and social network activity. Besides a reading list of critical essays and exploration of on-line reflections about internet-based communications, the course involves steady writing activity, such as creation of a blog representing depth of knowledge in an area of student interest.

**ENG 310 Twentieth-Century Irish Fiction (3 credits)**
Investigates primary phases in the development of Irish fiction from the period of James Joyce to the present.

**ENG 382 Literary Theory Plato to Poststructuralism (3 credits)**
Examination of some of the major issues in literary theory from the time of Plato to the present, including, but not limited to, the rhetorical effect of literature, the relationship between the text and the world, notions of the expressive power of literature, the formal qualities of the literary text, and poststructuralist notions of language. The course provides students with the opportunity to draw upon theory for their own literary analyses and prompts them to formulate their own theories about what literature is and does. Does not fulfill GEP Art/Lit requirement.

**ENG 402 Shakespeare: Early Works (3 credits)**
Shakespeare’s early plays and poems before 1601, primarily the histories and comedies. Close attention will be given to the dramatic structure in Shakespeare’s plays with special emphasis on the poetic. A special study of the problem plays and the tragedies.

**ENG 405 Eighteenth-Century British Novel (3 credits)**
A study of the origins of the English novel through the eighteenth century, with attention given to the cultural background for the rise of the novel and the connection between genre and gender. Featured authors may include (but are not limited to) Behn, Defoe, Haywood, Richardson, Fielding, Burney, and Inchbald.

**ENG 407 Twentieth-Century British and Irish Novel (3 credits)**
A study of the major developments in fiction from World War I to the present: Conrad, Ford, Lawrence, Joyce (Ulysses), Forster, Woolf, Beckett, Greene, and Fowles.

**ENG 415 Postcolonial Studies (3 credits)**
An examination of diverse literary texts, films and theoretical essays that engage the idea of "postcolonialism," the circumstances and effects of one nation having sovereign power over another. We will emphasize works with a relationship to the British Empire (e.g., Forster, Conrad, Rushdie, Collins, Dickens, Joyce, Winterson), but we will not be limited to this particular historical context. Diversity.

Professional Writing and Speaking

**ENG 112 Research Based writing (3 credits)**
Emphasizing process and product through three significant research assignments, Research Writing teaches students to: conduct academically-based and workplace-based research; use traditional and technological library resources; read, analyze, compare and evaluate existing research and ideas; integrate sources while maintaining voice and syntactic fluency; document appropriately; conduct original research (such as surveys and interviews); present results in clearly written, skillfully organized and well documented papers; and effectively deliver oral presentations. Students will be expected to provide feedback to other writers, incorporate critical feedback into their own writing, produce multiple drafts of papers, and further sharpen their writing skills.

**ENG 261 Introduction to Reporting & Writing (3 credits)**
A course designed to orient students to the role of the journalist in American life, with emphasis on
interpretive reporting. Topics will include the media in America, the skills and techniques of the newperson, assembling the story, cultivating sources, and understanding the social responsibilities of the journalist.

ENG 263 Organizational Writing (3 credits)
A study of the principles of writing in the business world. The course will examine the style, structure, and tone of various types of business communications and consider the planning and development process for business reports.

ENG 264 Techniques of Business Presentation (3 credits)
An examination of the business planning cycle with emphasis on the final delivery stage—with concern for developing an effective format and style of both oral and written presentations. The role of technology in all forms of presentation will be considered.

ENG 265 Public Relations (3 credits)

ENG 266 Case Studies in Public Relations and Advertising (3 credits)
A study of effective and ineffective cases in the history of public relations and advertising.

ENG 267 Negotiations, Writing and Conflict (3 credits)
The course involves students in an eclectic writing process that includes legal research, conflict analysis and public speaking. Modeled in part upon the Harvard Negotiation Project’s Getting To Yes methodology, the course also involves newly emerging practices that challenge the notion of argument and encourage exchange between disputing parties. The thesis of the course is that, when individuals embroiled in a conflict begin to hear and understand one another’s stories, they have the option to change and to grow. Although courtrooms and trials will be examined, quite unlike a law course, the format for our class includes dramatic performance, passages from fiction and poetry as well as essays to reveal the common sense that can provide peace between warring interests. The focused goal of this sequence of readings, dramatic exercises and writing is for each student to evolve and to articulate communication strategies for crisis situations.

ENG 268 Persuasion/Influence in Media and Relationships

In this course, we will examine some of the theories, concepts, and research associated with persuasion and their application for ethical and effective interaction in personal, professional and mass media settings. In addition, emphasis will be placed on social influence, compliance gaining and deception. Class activities, discussions, readings and assignments are designed to facilitate a “better understanding of how persuasion functions, an improved knowledge of ways to maximize our own persuasive efforts, and a greater ability to resist influence attempts, especially unscrupulous influence attempts, by others” (Gass, Seiter, 2007).

ENG 271 Writing for the World Wide Web (3 Credits)
Investigation of the World Wide Web from a writer’s perspective, with consideration for new vistas of identity, politics, artistic expression, and social network activity. Besides a reading list of critical essays and exploration of on-line reflections about internet-based communication, the course involves steady writing activity, such as creation of a blog representing depth of knowledge in an area of student interest.

ENG 361 The Art of Editing (3 credits)
A practical orientation to the aesthetic and pragmatic dimensions in the work of an editor. Students will undertake a range of editing projects, some dealing with technical subjects

ENG 362 Sex, Morality and the Media (3 credits)
Consideration of the role of mass media forms (books, magazines, movies, television, world wide web) in the evolution of cultural norms with regard to sexuality and moral responsibility. After a review of the Comstock laws in the 1870s and censorship of Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass in the early 1880s, the course will focus on key developments in 20th-century challenges to the Victorian Age.

ENG 363 Medical Writing (3 credits)
Exploration of writing that deals with medical issues for professionals in the field of medicine/health care and for the general reader, with particular attention to the challenge of writing clearly and sensibly to convey complex technical information in an engaging and interesting style.

ENG 364 Cultural Reporting: Narrating Race (3 credits)
An examination of ways in which the story of race has been recorded and accounted for in America.
ENG 365 Writing for Video and Cinema (3 credits)
This course examines the defining place of writing in the directing, the editing and the scripting of texts for video and cinema. To learn the many kinds of composition involved in this process, students will work to construct documentary, advertising and dramatic film productions. In this process, students will become knowledgeable of the digital cameras and editorial computer technologies involved in filmmaking; however, the writing of prose and dialogue will be the main concentration of the course.

ENG 401 Special Topics in Organizational Writing (3 credits)
Concentrated focus on a specialized genre of writing in the business environment: for example, the newsletter, the request for proposal, the business plan.

ENG 465 Special Topics in Journalism (ENG 465) (3 credits)
Focus on a particular issue in journalism, examination of some trend, of consideration of selected columnists/distinctive voices in journalism.