

ENGLISH BACHELOR OF ARTS

Program Overview

The program in English is committed to establishing a habit of lifelong learning that emphasizes the relationship of reading, writing and critical thinking. Our students:

- learn to read and write texts in a variety of modes and genres. They read and write imaginatively, critically, analytically, and interpretively, with close attention to detail, and they situate their reading and writing within established and contested historical, cultural, critical, and literary traditions. They understand that reading and writing are deeply inter-related activities, whether their major emphasizes the production or the reception of texts.
- think, read, and write collaboratively, sharing their work with others and drawing on their individual and collective knowledge, experience, wisdom, understanding, and background to advance their learning. They become adept at working creatively and effectively with others, through dialogue, debate, and critique.
- come to English and writing from a broad range of backgrounds, with a variety of beliefs, motivations, and tastes, to pursue a broad range of personal, professional, and expressive goals. Our faculty are co-learners with our students, taking active part in the challenging and rewarding practices of critical literacy and creative writing.
- develop into culturally aware users of language, attuned to the way language and the variety of meanings to which it gives rise change and respond to contemporary developments, including the political, social, technological, and aesthetic. They learn to question and reflect on these changes and to adapt their readerly and writerly sensibilities to address them.
- develop the desire to better understand themselves and their world through language, as exploratory writers and inquisitive readers. They are able to achieve that understanding by using language in critical and imaginative ways to advance their learning throughout their lives.
- become reflective and informed readers, able to generate and pursue complex questions of language’s meanings and uses. By focusing on textual details in relation to larger questions of form, purpose, and context, our students are able to articulate well-reasoned understandings of the language they encounter.
- learn to take pleasure in the play of language and other representational, symbolic systems of thought and expression. They value novelty and experimentation, both in their critical and writerly endeavors, and become adept at seeing and pursuing opportunities for playful engagement with language and meaning.
- contend with ambiguity and respond meaningfully and responsibly to changes in the way language functions, whether in its literary or everyday manifestations.
- develop the critical and creative wherewithal to recognize that language and representation are complex and important, wherever they manifest themselves. They are able to use the critical and creative approaches for thinking about film, drama, new media, novels, stories, poems, and other literary artifacts to analyze and reflect on symbolic representation of all kinds, from popular music to painting to political discourse and beyond.

Our courses involve students in a range of activities, including discussions (in class and online), collaborative projects, conferences, presentations, independent study, internships, and service learning.

The English Department is committed to supporting interdisciplinary programs and encourages students to pursue interdisciplinary concentrations, second majors and/or minors. A number of the Department’s courses are cross-listed with interdisciplinary programs, facilitating such study. In addition, the English major permits students to include related courses taken outside the department for credit toward their program of study, subject to approval by the student’s English Department adviser.

Our graduates pursue professional careers in such fields as professional writing, editing, advertising, publishing, education, management, computers, public relations and public service, or pursue post-baccalaureate study in English studies, law school or medical school. Students contemplating graduate study should confer with their advisers about special preparation and should be aware that many graduate schools typically expect proof of competence in foreign languages. Students interested in pursuing careers in primary or secondary education can obtain certification by completing the appropriate professional courses in teacher education.

B.A. Degree Requirements

The English major requires 12 courses. The English major allows for 3 electives, 2 of which must be 100-level courses. An English course may be used only once to fulfill a particular major requirement. Transfer students majoring in English must take at least 6 courses in English at Drake. Students with advanced placement (A.P.) will be credited one lower-level elective toward the major. Students majoring in English may minor in writing.

Code	Title	Hours
Lower Division Core		
Gateway:		
ENG 050	LITERARY STUDY	3
History and Traditions		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 040	TOPICS IN LITERARY HISTORY	
ENG 041	INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDY	
ENG 042	APPROACH TO AMERICAN LITERATURE BEFORE 1900	
ENG 043	APPROACHES TO BRITISH LITERATURE BEFORE 1900	
ENG 044	READING DRAMA	
ENG 045	GENRES	
ENG 046	BOOK HISTORY AND SOCIAL CHANGE	
ENG 047	READING SHAKESPEARE	
Culture and Identity		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 060	TOPICS IN CULTURE AND IDENTITY	
ENG 061	APPROACH TO AMERICAN LITERATURE AFTER 1900	
ENG 062	APPROACHES TO BRITISH LITERATURE (AFTER 1900)	
ENG 064	AFRICAN-AMER LIT BEFORE 1920	
ENG 065	AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE SINCE 1920	
ENG 066	READING RACE AND ETHNICITY	
ENG 067	ASIAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 068	RHETORIC IN POPULAR CULTURE	

ENG 069	RHETORIC AND POLITICS	
ENG 075	INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES	
ENG 077	READING GENDER	
ENG 078	PUBLIC FEELINGS	
ENG 079	HOME AND BELONGING	
Writing: Topics and Genres		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 080	TOPICS IN WRITING	
ENG 081	INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH LINGUISTICS	
ENG 082	AI IN FICTION	
ENG 086	READING AND WRITING SEXUALITY	
ENG 087	READING AND WRITING NATURE	
ENG 088	READING AND WRITING ABOUT CLASS	
ENG 090	READING AND WRITING DRAMA	
ENG 091	READING AND WRITING POETRY	
ENG 092	READING AND WRITING SHORT STORIES	
ENG 093	READING AND WRITING NON-FICTION	
ENG 094	BUSINESS & ADMIN WRITING	
Upper-Level Requirements		
Single Author or Genres		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 130	STUDIES IN LITERARY GENRES	
ENG 131	MAJOR HISTORICAL FIGURES	
ENG 132	DETECTIVE FICTION	
ENG 133	MAJOR CONTEMPORARY FIGURES AFTER 1900	
ENG 135	ADOLESCENT LITERATURE	
Theory, Criticism, and Language		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 102	STRUCTURE OF MODERN AMERICAN ENGLISH	
ENG 123	ADVANCED TOPICS IN THEORY AND CRITICISM	
ENG 126	FILM AND TV HISTORY AND CRITICISM	
ENG 139	LANGUAGE AND LOGIC	
ENG 173	CRITICAL THEORY	
ENG 174	THEORIES OF LANGUAGE AND DISCOURSE	
Historical (Pre-20th Century)		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 104	HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE	
ENG 124	ADVANCED TOPICS IN HISTORY AND TRADITION	
ENG 134	TRANSATLANTIC LANDSCAPES IN BRITISH AMERICAN ART	
ENG 142	MEDIEVAL LITERATURE	
ENG 143	EARLY MODERN LITERATURE 1500-1780	
ENG 144	SHAKESPEARE: TEXTS/CONTEXTS	
ENG 146	19TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE	
ENG 147	20TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE	
ENG 148	CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE	
ENG 151	SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIALS	
ENG 152	19TH CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE	
20th Century to the Present		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 125	ADVANCED TOPICS IN CULTURE AND IDENTITY	

ENG 137	GENDER AND HORROR	
ENG 147	20TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE	
ENG 148	CONTEMPORARY BRITISH LITERATURE	
ENG 153	20TH CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 154	CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE	
ENG 155	REPRESENTING DETROIT	
ENG 158	LITERATURE OF SOUTH AFRICA	
ENG 164	LATINO/A LITERATURE	
Rhetoric and Media Studies		
Select one of the following:		3
ENG 105	AESTHETICS OF EVERYDAY LIFE	
ENG 108	VISUAL RHETORICS	
ENG 117	ADAPTATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS	
ENG 121	RHETORICS OF SPACE & PLACE	
ENG 127	ADVANCED TOPICS IN NEW MEDIA	
ENG 129	ADVANCED TOPICS IN FILM	
ENG 138	ARGUMENTATION AND ADVOCACY	
Electives ¹		9
Total Hours		36

¹ Any 3 ENG courses (At least two must be at upper-level). Up to six individual experience hours (internship, independent study, or portfolio) may be counted as electives.

In addition to programmatic requirements, students are responsible for satisfying all requirements of the Drake Curriculum (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/drake-curriculum/>), including Areas of Inquiry (AOI)

Student must also satisfy university graduation requirements (<https://catalog.drake.edu/archive/2024-2025/undergraduate/academic-information/graduation-requirements/>) for all undergraduate students..