When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young."

— Maya Angelou
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Welcome to the English major!

The major you have chosen will foster your analytical skills, stimulate your creativity, and strengthen your ability to communicate in any situation. It will help you become the kind of researcher who can find the answer to any question, and it will encourage you to become the kind of thinker who generates brand new questions. It will also provide you with the opportunity to read and discuss with professors and other students the most exciting, the most engrossing, the most influential novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and essays written in the English language.

This handbook is designed to make sure that you are prepared to take full advantage of all of the opportunities and experiences the English Department offers, and it is designed to help you obtain your Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Mississippi State University with as little confusion about the technicalities as possible.

To these ends, please keep in mind the following responsibilities for all English majors:

1. Be familiar with your English Major Handbook.

2. Make an appointment with your English Department advisor during the advising period every semester. The advising period immediately precedes pre-registration; for 2014-2015 the dates are October 20-31 and March 23-April 3. *If you haven’t met with your advisor, you can’t pre-register, and that means you’re unlikely to get all of the courses you want.* All you have to do is call the English Department at 325-3644 just before the advising period starts, and an appointment will be set up for you with the appropriate advisor.

3. Be prepared for your advising appointment. Your advisor is there to answer questions, help you find information you need, and let you know whether your course choices are wise ones—but they’re still your choices. In order to make informed ones, check your CAPP through Banner and keep a record of all courses you have taken on the **Check Sheet on page 11**; this way, you’ll always be able to see at a glance what requirements you have left.

4. If you find that you are unable to pre-register for the courses that you have chosen and that your advisor has approved, you must inform your advisor of the substitutions you have made as soon as possible so that your advisor can approve the new courses.
SAVE YOUR PAPERS

Make a habit of saving the papers you write in your English courses—electronic copies and hard copies if possible.

Why?

First, your papers are your work—they represent your knowledge, your skills, and your creativity. Your family or those close to you might like to see them, and you might want to read them again someday.

Second, when you are a senior, the English Department will ask you to submit a portfolio of five papers of your choice from various courses you have taken to help us in assessing the English program.

Third, a professor might nominate one of your papers for a writing award.

Fourth, you might need to choose one of them as a writing sample for an internship application, a graduate school application, or even a job application.
Contacts in the English Department

Note: In May, 2014 the department will move to Lee Hall, office numbers TBD.

If you have questions about **what courses to take** to complete your English major, how close you are to **graduation**, how to go about planning a **minor or concentration** in another field, or how to get your English major to work for you after graduation, you may contact your advisor or Dr. Ginger Pizer, Director of Undergraduate Studies. You may call her at 325-2240 or e-mail her at gpizer@english.msstate.edu. You will find Dr. Pizer in Howell 209 during posted office hours.

If you have **concerns about or problems with a course you are taking or any other departmental matters**, you may contact Dr. Rich Raymond, the head of the English Department. His office is located in Howell 101, and you can contact him by calling 325-3644 and speaking to administrative assistants Ms. Joyce Harris and Ms. Carlene Hatchett. You can also call this office, staffed from 8:00 to 5:00 every weekday, if you are unsure whom to ask about your problem or question.

If you would like to find out more about **creative writing**, you may contact Dr. Katie Pierce (cp341@msstate.edu) or Dr. Mike Kardos (mpk36@msstate.edu), Co-Directors of the Creative Writing Emphasis in the English Department. You will find them in Howell 203.

If you would like to find out more about the **TESOL certificate**, you may contact Dr. Lyn Fogle. Her office is Howell 207, and you can reach her by e-mail at ewf30@msstate.edu.

If you would like **advice about going on for a law degree** and how you might best plan your undergraduate courses to prepare for law school, you may contact Dr. Matthew Little. You will find him in Howell 213 or e-mail him at littmatt@ra.msstate.edu.

If you would like to find out about **graduate study in English at Mississippi State**, you may contact Dr. Lara Dodds. You will find her in Howell 208, or you may e-mail her at LDodds@english.msstate.edu.
**Professorial Faculty Currently Teaching in the Department**

What follows is only a partial list of the people who contribute to the English Department at MSU. This list of the department’s professors, descriptions of their specializations, and contact information may be useful to you as you advance in the major, identify your own special interests, and seek mentoring. More information about these faculty members can be found on the English Department’s web page.

Thomas Anderson 209  
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University  
Renaissance literature, particularly Shakespeare; critical theory.

Ted Atkinson 205  
Ph.D. Louisiana State University  
American literature, Southern literature, particularly Faulkner.

Greg Bentley 202  
Ph.D. University of California at Davis  
Renaissance literature, especially Shakespeare; modern and contemporary drama; critical theory.

Shalyn Claggett 204  
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University  
Nineteenth-century British literature.

Peter DeGabriele 207  
Ph.D. University at Buffalo-SUNY  
Eighteenth-century British literature; the novel; literary and cultural theory.

Lara Dodds 208  
Ph.D. Brown University  
Renaissance literature; Milton; early modern prose; early modern women's writing, especially Margaret Cavendish; science and literature.

Lyn Fogle 207  
Ph.D. Georgetown University  
Second Language Learning, Linguistics.

Becky Hagenston 201  
M.F.A. University of Arizona  
Creative writing: fiction.

Shirley Hanshaw 127  
Ph.D. University of Mississippi  
Nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature; African-American literature; technical writing.

Wendy Herd 214  
University of Kansas  
Linguistics, phonetics, phonology, psycholinguistics, and second language acquisition.

Holly Johnson 201  
Ph.D. University of North Carolina  
Old English and Middle English literature.
Michael Kardos 203  mpk36@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Missouri
Creative writing: fiction

Stacy Kastner 202  smk318@msstate.edu
Ph.D. Bowling Green State University
Rhetoric and Composition; multi-modal literacies; Academic writing.

Matt Little 213  littmatt@ra.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Chicago
American literature, including works by Henry James, William James, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald; legal writing.

Rich Lyons 211  rjl@ra.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Houston

Kelly Marsh 214  kmarsh@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University
Twentieth-century British and Irish literature, including works by James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, Roddy Doyle, Jeanette Winterson, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith.

Bonnie O’Neill 210  boneill@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Washington University
Nineteenth-century American literature, including works by Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Catherine Pierce 203  CPierce@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Missouri
Creative writing: poetry.

Ginger Pizer 210  GPizer@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Texas, Austin
Linguistics; American Sign Language.

Rich Raymond 101  rraymond@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Miami University
Eighteenth-century literature, focusing on Swift and Johnson; rhetoric and composition theory.

Donald Shaffer 205
Ph.D University of Chicago
American literature, African-American literature and history, especially Charles Chesnutt

Andrea Spain 204  aspain@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D University at Buffalo
Postcolonial literature, World literature, Critical Theory, Film.

Robert West 213  rmw107@ra.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of North Carolina
Twentieth- and twenty-first-century American, British, and Irish poetry; Southern and Appalachian literature.
How to Build an English Major:
The Courses and the Requirements

**University and College of Arts & Sciences Core Courses** (See MSU Catalog for all details on credit by exam.)
Composition I (OR 3 or higher on any AP English exam) & II (OR 4 or higher on any AP English exam)
Public Speaking
Foreign Language I-IV
College Algebra & Trigonometry or Statistics OR Calculus or higher
3 Science classes
6 Social Science classes
Fine Arts History/Appreciation
Philosophy
2 History classes

**Introduction to the English Major (EN 1111)** in your first year as an English major

**Survey Courses:**
All English majors take four courses that survey English and American literature chronologically.
- EN 2213: English Literature from the beginning to approximately 1800.
- EN 2223: English Literature from approximately 1800 to the present.
- EN 2243: American Literature from the beginning to approximately 1850.
- EN 2253: American Literature from approximately 1850 to the present.

**Critical Writing and Research for Literary Studies (EN 3414)**

**4000-level Courses:**
All English majors take at least five high-level literature courses.

1 course from **Group I**
(British Literature before 1660):
- EN 4503 Shakespeare (through 1599)
- EN 4513 Shakespeare (from 1600)
- EN 4523 Chaucer
- EN 4533 Milton
- EN 4703 English Literature of the 16th Century
- EN 4713 English Literature of the 17th Century

1 course from **Group II**
(British Literature after 1660):
- EN 4643 The 18th-Century British Novel
- EN 4653 The 19th-Century British Novel
- EN 4663 British and Irish Novel since 1900
- EN 4723 British Literature and Culture 1600-1700
- EN 4733 British Literature and Culture 18th Century
- EN 4863 Romantic Poets and Prose Writers
- EN 4883 Victorian Poets and Prose Writers

1 course from **Group III**
(Postcolonial and World Literatures)
- EN 4393 Postcolonial Literatures and Theory
- EN 4813 The World Novel

or 1 more course from either Group I or II

- EN 4333 Southern Literature
- EN 4343 African American Literature
- EN 4833 The American Short Story
- EN 4903 American Literature 1800-1860
- EN 4913 American Literature 1860-1900
- EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
- EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature

2 courses from **Group IV**
(American Literature):
- EN 4333 Southern Literature
- EN 4343 African American Literature
- EN 4833 The American Short Story
- EN 4903 American Literature 1800-1860
- EN 4913 American Literature 1860-1900
- EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
- EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature
Professional Requirement:
All English majors take one of the following related to their future careers or current interest:

EN 3303 Creative Writing (recommended for those planning a writing career of any kind)
EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace
EN 4223 Legal Writing (recommended for those going on to law school)
EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present or EN 4353 Critical Theory since 1900 (recommended for those going on to graduate school in English)
EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics or EN 4413 History of the English Language (recommended for those interested in teaching English in any setting)
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy or EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training (recommended for those interested in teaching writing in any setting)

Elective:
All English majors take at least one additional English course, which may be chosen from the lists above or from among the department’s other course offerings:

In Literature:
EN 2273 World Literature I (from the beginning to approximately 1600)
EN 2283 World Literature II (from approximately 1600 to the present)
EN 2434 Literature and Film
EN 2443 Introduction to Science Fiction
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900

In Creative Writing:
EN 3303 Creative Writing
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction
EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

In Literary Criticism and Theory:
EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present
EN 4353 Critical Theory since 1900

In Linguistics and the Teaching of English as a Second Language:
EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics
EN 4413 History of the English Language
EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
EN 4443 English Syntax
EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition

In Rhetoric and Composition
EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training

Upper Division Humanities Elective (History, Foreign Language, or Philosophy) OR Study Abroad

Portfolio and Reflective Writing (EN 4111) in your last year as an English major

After fulfilling all of these requirements, you will still have room in your schedule for 7 or 8 free electives to bring you to the 124-hour minimum for a BA. This is more than enough to earn a minor in another field that will combine with your English major to help you reach your career and academic goals.
What to Expect in English 1111: English Studies

English majors are required to take English 1111, a one-credit introduction to the major, and are advised to do so as early as possible.

What we'll do:

1. We’ll hear from various professors in the department about their specific fields of study, what opportunities their fields might offer you, and what courses you might take in their fields.

2. We’ll hear from former English majors who have experience working in such fields as law, publishing, library science, teaching, and technical writing.

3. We’ll talk openly and frankly about succeeding in college and about resources and opportunities available to English majors.

What we'll accomplish:

1. You’ll be more prepared to do well in all of your English courses.

2. You’ll be better equipped to make decisions that will be best for you as you choose your courses.

3. You’ll be ready to start thinking knowledgeably about your career plans.

What to Expect in English 4111: Portfolios and Reflective Writing

English majors are required to take English 4111, a one-credit course on reflective writing, in their last year.

What we'll do:

1. We’ll read journal articles to discover the theoretical purposes of writing reflectively. These articles will also illustrate the practical benefits enjoyed by writers and students of literature who learn to reflect on their growth.

2. We’ll learn how to write a letter of application and a professional resume, two practical forms of reflective, self-assessing writing vital in the world of work.

3. We’ll learn how to assemble portfolios and how to write the centerpiece of the portfolio, the reflective essay.

What we'll accomplish:

1. You’ll be prepared to apply for your first job or graduate program.

2. You’ll have a portfolio and reflective essay that you may submit to the Department to help us assess our program.
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<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Sem</th>
<th>Tran</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Studies (EN 1111)</td>
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<td>Comp I (EN 1103, 1163, or 1103H)</td>
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<td>Comp II (EN 1113, 1173, or 1113H)</td>
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<td>Public Speaking (CO 1003 or 1103)</td>
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<td>Foreign Language 1113 Elementary I</td>
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<td>Foreign Language 1123 Elementary II</td>
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<td>Foreign Language 2133 Intermediate III</td>
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<td>Foreign Language 2143 Intermediate IV</td>
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<td>College Algebra (MA 1313) and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trigonometry (MA 1323) or Statistics (ST 2113)</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calculus (MA 1463) or higher</td>
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<td>Life Science w/ Lab (BIO, EPP, or AN 1344)</td>
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<td>Physical Science w/ Lab (CH, GG, GR, PH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Science (any field, no lab nec.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Early” History (HI 1063, 1163, 1213, OR 1313)</td>
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<td>“Late” History (HI 1073, 1173, 1223, OR 1323)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Division Humanities (HI, PHI, FL) OR Study Abroad</td>
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<td>Social Sciences from at least 4 areas: AN, CRM, GR, PS, PSY, SO, and selected AAS, CO, EC, &amp; GS. No more than two per area (one CO, EC); at least two from A&amp;S list.</td>
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<td>Fine Arts Appreciation</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>English Literature I (EN 2213)</td>
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<td>English Literature II (EN 2223)</td>
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<td>American Literature I (EN 2243)</td>
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<td>American Literature II (EN 2253)</td>
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<td>Critical Writing and Research (EN 3414)</td>
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<td>EN 3 or 4 Professional</td>
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<td>EN 4 Pre-1660 British (Group I)</td>
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<td>EN 4 Post-1660 British (Group II)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 4 1 course from Group III (Postcolonial and World Literatures)</td>
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<td>or 1 more course from either Group I or II</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 4 American (Group IV)</td>
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<td>EN 4 American or Contemporary (Group IV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 4111 Portfolio and Reflective Writing</td>
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Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

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<th>Electives:</th>
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| Courses Not Accepted for Degree:                                         |     |      |     |     |
|                                                                           |     |      |     |     |
|                                                                           |     |      |     |     |
|                                                                           |     |      |     |     |

For English courses that fulfill major requirements, refer to pages 8 and 9. For courses in all other departments that fulfill requirements, refer to page 13.

As you plan, you need to know the following details that sometimes cause trouble for students who are unaware of them:

1. You need a total of 124 hours for the BA in English. No more than 62 of them may be transferred from a community college.

2. You need a total of 31 hours of upper-division credit (that is, courses at the 3000 or 4000 level) in the college of Arts and Sciences and in residence in order to graduate. 25 of those hours are required (your upper-division English courses and an UD Humanities or Study Abroad), but remember the other 6 hours as you choose the rest of your courses.

3. You need at least a C in all of your English courses above the 2000 level, and you need a G.P.A. of 2.5 in your English courses overall.

4. You must take EN 3414, Critical Writing and Research, before or simultaneously with your first 4000-level English course.
### Specific courses for Arts & Sciences core requirements

#### Natural Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN 1344</td>
<td>Introduction to Biological Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 1004</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1023</td>
<td>Plants and Humans</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1123</td>
<td>Animal Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 1134</td>
<td>Biology I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 1144</td>
<td>Biology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 2113</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 3103</td>
<td>Genetics I</td>
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<td>BIO 3304</td>
<td>General Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH 1043</td>
<td>Survey of Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CH 1213</td>
<td>Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1053</td>
<td>Survey of Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CH 1223</td>
<td>Chemistry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1051</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry</td>
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<td>EPP 2213</td>
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#### Social and Behavioral Sciences

(6 courses in 4 areas; at least 2 courses from list; only 1 CO or EC)

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<tr>
<td>CO 1403</td>
<td>Introduction to the Mass Media</td>
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<td>EC 2113</td>
<td>Principles of Macroeconomics</td>
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<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR 2013</td>
<td>Cultural Geography</td>
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<td>GR 3113</td>
<td>Conservation of Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR 4123</td>
<td>Urban Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR 4203</td>
<td>Geography of North America</td>
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<td>PS 1113</td>
<td>American Government</td>
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<td>PS 1313</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 1513</td>
<td>Comparative Government</td>
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<td>Introduction to Engineering and Public Policy</td>
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#### Fine Arts

Choose one of the following: 3

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<tr>
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<td>Art History II</td>
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<td>ART 1113</td>
<td>Art Appreciation</td>
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<td>MU 1113</td>
<td>History and Appreciation of Music</td>
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<td>PE 1323</td>
<td>History and Appreciation of Dance</td>
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#### Philosophy

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<td>PHI 1113</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic</td>
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<td>Introduction to Ethics</td>
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<td>PHI 3013</td>
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<td>PHI 3153</td>
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**History**

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<td>HI 1163</td>
<td>World History Before 1500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 1173</td>
<td>World History Since 1500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 1213</td>
<td>Early Western World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 1223</td>
<td>Modern Western World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 1313</td>
<td>East Asian Civilizations to 1300</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI 1323</td>
<td>East Asian Civilizations since 1300</td>
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**Mathematics & Statistics**

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<td>Elements of Physical Geography</td>
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**Computer Literacy**

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**History**

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<td>HI 1073</td>
<td>Modern U.S. History</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI 1163</td>
<td>World History Before 1500</td>
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<td>HI 1173</td>
<td>World History Since 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI 1213</td>
<td>Early Western World</td>
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<td>HI 1223</td>
<td>Modern Western World</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI 1313</td>
<td>East Asian Civilizations to 1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI 1323</td>
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<td>GG 1123</td>
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</table>
Listed below is the projected rotation of the EN courses that are not offered every semester; these courses are offered only once a year or once every other year. This rotation is a projection only and does not constitute a promise that the courses will be offered as indicated. However, the courses are usually offered in accordance with this list, so you can use it as a guideline in order not to miss courses that especially interest you. We always offer several of these courses in the summer, as well.

**Fall, even-numbered years**
- EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
- EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
- EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
- EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
- EN 4323 Literary Criticism Plato to Present
- EN 4393 Postcolonial Literatures and Theory
- EN 4403 Intro to Linguistics
- EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
- EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
- EN 4623 Language and Culture
- EN 4663 C20 British and Irish Novel
- EN 4863 Romantic Poetry and Prose
- EN 4883 Victorian Poetry and Prose
- EN 4903 American Lit 1800-1860
- EN 4933 Contemporary Lit
- EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction

**Fall, odd-numbered years**
- EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
- EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
- EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
- EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900
- EN 4403 Intro to Linguistics
- EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
- EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
- EN 4533 Milton
- EN 4623 Language and Culture
- EN 4643 C18 British Novel
- EN 4813 World Novel Since 1900
- EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900
- EN 4833 Am Short Story
- EN 4933 Contemporary Lit

**Spring, odd-numbered years**
- EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
- EN 2434 Literature and Film
- EN 3513 Women and Literature
- EN 4223 Legal Writing
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
- EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
- EN 4343 African-American Lit
- EN 4403 Intro to Linguistics
- EN 4413 History of the English Language
- EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
- EN 4443 English Syntax
- EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)
- EN 4523 Chaucer
- EN 4633 Language and Society
- EN 4703 C16 English Lit
- EN 4723 British Lit/Cult 1600-1700
- EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
- EN 4913 American Lit 1860-1900
- EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

**Spring, even-numbered years**
- EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
- EN 2443 Science Fiction
- EN 3513 Women and Literature
- EN 4223 Legal Writing
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
- EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
- EN 4343 African-American Lit
- EN 4403 Intro to Linguistics
- EN 4413 History of the English Language
- EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL
- EN 4443 English Syntax
- EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)
- EN 4633 Language and Society
- EN 4653 C19 British Novel
- EN 4713 C17 English Lit
- EN 4733 Brit/Lit Culture 18th Century
- EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
- EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry
English Department Scholarships
Application forms for all of the following are available in Lee 316.

For any English Major:

*Helen W. Skelton Annual Scholarship*
Application deadline March 1
Scholarship amount: $1000.00

For freshmen and lower-division English majors:

*George B. Nutt Scholarship*
Application deadline March 1
Scholarship amount: $1000.00

For upper-division English majors:

*Howell H. Gwin Scholarship*
Application deadline March 31 of the sophomore or junior year
Scholarship amount: $500.00

*William H. Magruder Memorial Scholarship*
Application deadline March 1 of the sophomore or junior year
Scholarship amount: $1000.00

*The Lewis & Betty Nolan Book Award*
Application deadlines September 28 and February 28
Scholarship amount: up to $300.00.

For creative writing students (preference given to transfer students):

*Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award*
Application deadline May 1
Scholarship amount: $2500.00
English Department Writing Competitions

The MSU Writing Contest
Any MSU student may enter in one or more of these five categories:
  Fiction
  Poetry
  One-Act Play
  Informal Essay
  Formal Essay
The contest is held every year, and the deadline is right around the end of the fall semester (look for informational flyers in late November).
For more information about this contest, you may contact Dr. Richard Lyons, Director of Creative Writing.

The Peyton Ward Williams, Jr. Distinguished Writing Award
Papers are nominated for this award by professors in 3000-level and 4000-level courses.

The Linda Brasher/Mary Ann Dazey Writing Award
Papers are nominated for this award by professors in English 3414: Critical Writing and Research.
SIGMA TAU DELTA

ΣΤΔ

The English Honor Society

Who is eligible?
English majors with a G.P.A. of 3.0 overall and in 12 hours of English courses after composition.

How and when can one join?
Students with these qualifications (usually second-semester sophomores) are notified that they are eligible and are invited to join. There is an induction banquet each fall semester.

How much does it cost?
There is a one-time induction fee of $40.00.

What does the group do?
The group meets monthly to plan the induction banquet and ceremony and other events and to develop a service project for the year.

What are the advantages?
ΣΤΔ members are eligible to apply for a number of scholarships (including one for study abroad) and internships, as well as to enter writing and web site competitions. ΣΤΔ also offers opportunities for participation in their annual conference and submission to their literary magazine and their scholarly journal.

You can find out more about this national English honor society at www.english.org.

You can find out more about MSU’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta by stopping by Dr De Gabriele’s office at Howell 207, emailing him at p.degab@english.msstate.edu or calling 325-3644.
The Writing Center

Are you having problems writing a particular paper for one of your courses?

Could you use some individual help improving your writing skills in general, which will improve your performance in all of your courses?

Ask your professor about
The Brasher-Dazey Writing Center
on President’s Circle,
or make an appointment to go by
with a paper you are writing.

You can also stop by without an appointment at the
Mobile Writing Center
in the Colvard Student Union across from the Dawg House
or at the Library Writing Center in the IMC.

Help is also available by appointment at the Writing Center Online.

The trained tutoring staff can help you
identify which of your skills need the most work,
and they can help you work productively to improve them.

Writing Center Hours are posted on the door and at
http://www.writingcenter.msstate.edu/
each semester, including summer terms,
and you can call at 325-1045.
Exit Portfolio

Students who enroll in the one credit hour EN 4111, Portfolio and Reflective Writing, will develop their portfolio as one of the course requirements.

Every year, the English Department asks for the participation of our graduating seniors to help us gather the kinds of information that allow us to constantly evaluate and assess the BA program in English. To measure our success in teaching the skills English majors need and to measure our students’ satisfaction with their experience here, we use a three-part process: exit portfolios, exit interviews, and exit surveys.

We ask that all graduating seniors prepare and submit a portfolio at mid-term of the semester they plan to graduate. Your portfolio will simply be a three-ring notebook containing five of the papers you have written in English courses here at MSU. You will choose the five (unrevised) essays or creative pieces from the following courses:

- One selection from English Composition I or II (if taken at MSU)
- One selection from one of your MSU sophomore survey classes: EN 2213, English Literature I; EN 2223, English Literature II; EN 2243, American Literature I; EN 2253, American Literature II; EN 2273, World Literature I; or EN 2283, World Literature II
- One selection from a junior- or senior-level writing course: EN 3414, Critical Writing and Research; EN 3303, Creative Writing; EN 4303, Craft of Poetry; EN 4313, Craft of Fiction
- Two selections from 4000-level courses (or three selections if you did not take Comp at MSU). You may include work from linguistics courses here if you wish.

After you have put the portfolio together, you add one more essay: a reflective essay in which you write about the context in which you wrote each paper, the writing process you used, and your own evaluation of the final product. To help you prepare your portfolio, we will offer a Portfolio Workshop one month before we ask you to submit the portfolio.

After reading and rating the portfolios, a few professors will meet with three or four graduates at a time for approximately 45 minutes to discuss what you learned from constructing your portfolio. We will also want to know what comments you have about the strengths and weaknesses of the undergraduate English program and its effect on your thinking as a professional and as a citizen. Of course, we will also want to hear your plans for your immediate future. At the end of our discussion, we will ask you to fill out a survey, 32 questions about your experience of the English major at MSU.

We will return your portfolio at the end of this process, together with a letter from one of the Assessment Committee members, thanking you and responding to the contents of your portfolio.

Please realize, too, that we’re assessing the program, not you. Your participation will in no way affect your grade point average or your graduating.

All 30 students who completed the portfolio process over the last two years reported that assembling the portfolio and writing about their growth gave them a clear sense of how far they had come as critical readers and writers; they also learned what areas still need work. Such affirming knowledge will serve you well as you move on to graduate school, law school, teaching, or corporate life.
Requirements for graduation:

Courses:
You will need to take all courses and fulfill all requirements as explained on pages 11-12.

GPA:
You need at least a C in all English courses above the 2000 level and at least a 2.5 grade point average in your English courses. Also, you will need an overall grade point average of 2.0. (You have the option of re-taking two courses in which a D or F is earned. Nevertheless, do strive to maintain at least a 2.0 at all times, or you risk academic probation and even suspension.)

Senior Checksheet:
When you have accumulated 75 credits, you will be notified that you must see the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English to complete your 75-Hour Checksheet. The Checksheet takes into account all courses you have completed and lists all that you have left to complete in order to earn your degree. It is checked and signed by you, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English, and the Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences. Please note that the timing of this is not based on how long you have been a student or when you plan to graduate, and it is not optional. If your 75-Hour Checksheet is not completed on time, you will find you are not allowed to register for the following semester.

Application for Graduation:
When you are on the computer registering for your final semester at MSU, you will follow the instructions you will see there to access the application for graduation, complete it, and submit it. Remember that there is a specific deadline for this application every semester that usually falls within the first six weeks or so of classes—missing the deadline means paying a fine.

Some Advice about Letters of Recommendation

Whom to ask: Keep this in mind from the time you take your first English courses: the most effective recommendations come from professors who have read your work, talked to you about your work during office hours, and heard your contributions to class discussions. Identify individuals who know your work in these ways, and then stop by, call, or e-mail to ascertain whether they will be willing to write you a recommendation.

When to ask: Be sure to give those you ask clear deadlines and plenty of time to meet them. Even when the recommendation appears to be a one-page form, an accompanying letter is nearly always expected. Writing recommendations takes time, so plan accordingly.

Recommendation forms: Be sure that you provide the recommendation form, if there is one, and that you have filled out your portion completely and signed it. The form will offer you the choice of waiving your right to access the recommendation. As you make your choice, remember that waiving this right is a guarantee that the recommendation has been written in confidence and is therefore likely to be honest and complete—such a recommendation may well be taken more seriously than one that is open to you.

Write a thank-you note: Your recommender would also be very glad to know how the application process turns out!
Creative Writing

The English Department offers a number of courses in creative writing:

*EN 3303 Creative Writing:*  
Basic techniques in writing fiction and poetry; meter and rhyme, metaphor and image, plot, characterization, and dramatic detail.

*EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction*  
Techniques in writing fiction (for students who have taken EN 3304 or who have been approved by writing faculty).

*EN 4303/6303 Craft of Poetry:*  
The craft and practice of writing poetry.

*EN 4313/6313 Craft of Fiction:*  
The craft and practice of writing fiction.

We also offer the following, recommended to complement creative writing courses:

*EN 4943/6943 Form and Theory of Fiction:*  
Theoretical aspects of fictional technique, genre, style; readings include novels, short stories, and writings about the craft of fiction.

*EN 4953/6953 Form and Theory of Poetry:*  
Poetic theory; formal conventions, techniques, and innovations in the tradition of English and American poetry.

If you are interested in creative writing, consider taking EN 3303 in fulfillment of your professional requirement, and take the other courses as electives. Doing so will allow you to explore this interest, enhance your English major, and, perhaps, lead you to a graduate program in creative writing (for example, the master’s program in English at MSU offers an emphasis in creative writing).

*Every semester the Creative Writing faculty arrange student readings and invite published poets and fiction writers to read from their work here on campus: keep an eye out for announcements about these events.*
Undergraduate Minor in Linguistics

Linguistics is the study of language, including the structure of sounds, words, and sentences, how our brains process it, how people learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. Studying linguistics raises students’ awareness of patterns in the language of their daily lives and can contribute to careers such as language teaching, editing and publishing, speech therapy, advertising, and more.

The Minor in Linguistics is open to undergraduate students in any major except General Liberal Arts with a focus in Linguistics.

Curriculum
The minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. Possible courses are listed below. Up to two additional Special Topics or Directed Individual Study courses will count toward the minor when approved in advance by the Linguistics Committee. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.

Required course
EN 4403/AN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics

3-5 of the following courses
EN 2403/AN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
EN 4413 History of the English Language
EN 4443 English Syntax
EN 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition
EN 4473 Phonetics
EN 4623/AN 4623/SO 4623 Language and Culture
EN 4633/AN 4633/SO 4633 Language and Society

0-2 of the following courses
AN 1103 Introduction to Anthropology
AN 1143 Cultural Anthropology
AN 4143 Ethnographic Methods
CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication
CO 4273 Intercultural Communication
CSE 3813 Introduction to Formal Languages
PHI 1113 Introduction to Logic
PHI 4223 Philosophy of Cognitive Science
PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology
PSY 3723 Cognitive Neuroscience
PSY 4653 Cognitive Science
PSY 4713 Language and Thought

Restrictions
• No more than two courses which are not cross-listed in English may count toward the minor.
• Only one of EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar or EN 4443 English Syntax may count toward the minor.
• Only one of PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology or PSY 4653 Cognitive Science may count toward the minor.

For more information or to declare your intention to pursue the Linguistics Minor, contact Dr. Ginger Pizer at gpizer@english.msstate.edu
TESOL
TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES
CERTIFICATE
AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Prepare for opportunities abroad
Learn techniques for language teaching
Work with English language learners in Mississippi

Five courses are required for the TESOL Certificate:

Two courses in theoretical background:

• EN 4403/6403 Introduction to Linguistics
  (in your first semester in the certificate program)
• EN 4463/6463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

One of the following courses on the grammatical structure of English:

• EN 4443/6443 English Syntax
• EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
  (for undergraduate Elementary and Secondary English/Language Arts Education
  majors only)

Two of the following courses in language teaching methodology:

• EN 4453/6453, Methods in TESOL
• EN 4433/6433, Approaches to TESOL
• EN 4493/6493 TESOL Practicum (study abroad)

Note: On its own, the TESOL Certificate does not lead to K-12 ESOL certification, which is
required to teach in the public school system in the U.S. However, the certificate can be added to
a current or in-progress Mississippi educator’s license to obtain an ESL supplemental
endorsement.

Contact Information: Lyn Fogle, ewf30@msstate.edu
Or visit our website: http://www.english.msstate.edu/tesol/tesol.html
Careers for English Majors

Following an address to faculty, students, and alumni at MUW on October 15, 2004, Bill Bradley (Olympic gold medalist, NBA star, former senator and candidate for the presidential nomination) answered this question posed by a student: “What advice do you have for those of us who want to go into politics?” His response started this way: “Learn how to write an English sentence.” After talking about the importance of writing skills, he went on to say that aspiring politicians should learn the history of their country and have a grasp of its imaginative literature—its poetry, fiction, and drama—as these convey the goals and ideals of its people. As Bradley’s response indicates, an English major’s skills and knowledge are in demand everywhere.

With such a broad range of possibilities before you, you might be having trouble choosing among them, but there are lots of resources to help you decide how to put your English major to work for you.

The Career Center on campus has excellent computer resources to help you assess your own skills and interests and to help you research fields you don’t know much about yet. The Arts and Sciences liaison is Cassandra Latimer, Assistant Director of the Center; her expertise is in helping students, including students with humanities degrees, to research job possibilities.

The Director of Undergraduate Studies can also help. She can often put you in touch with M.S.U. English professors and others who have experience in career areas that interest you, and she has several books you can check out:

- *Great Jobs for English Majors* (De Galan and Lambert; 2nd edition; 2000)
- *Careers for Bookworms & Other Literary Types* (Eberts and Gisler; 3rd edition; 2002)
- *Careers for Writers and Others Who Have a Way with Words* (Bly; 2nd edition; 2003)
- *What Can You Do with a Major in English?* (O’Hara; 2005)

As you get ready to make use of these resources, give some thought to which of the skills you have developed as an English major you would like to make the center of your career: Writing? Reading? Analysis? Research? Or is it all about the literature for you? Whatever your answer to that question, the following will help you get started thinking about the possibilities:

**Law**

If what you have loved most about your studies of English literature is the analysis of texts, you might consider law school. English is one of the best undergraduate majors for law students. If this is your goal, do talk to a pre-law advisor; one of them is the English Department’s Dr. Matt Little.

**Education**

If it’s all about the literature for you, then you’ll be thinking about whether teaching literature might be for you. You can teach in a private high school with your English major or become certified through the College of Education to teach in the public schools. With a master’s degree in English, you will be qualified to apply for jobs teaching at two-year colleges. With a Ph.D. in English, you will be qualified to apply for jobs at universities. You might also consider exporting your skills and teaching English in other countries; if this appeals to you, consider earning the TESOL certificate as part of your undergraduate degree.
Reading and Researching
As with writing, look for jobs researching in places that may not be immediately obvious. Government agencies of various kinds, think tanks, and businesses hire people whose primary responsibility is research. Researchers get jobs in radio and television, as well, where people are needed to generate topics and check the accuracy of what is presented.

Publishing
Whether you think of yourself as primarily a reader or primarily a writer, there are jobs in publishing you might like. Book publishers and magazines need people who read in acquisitions and editing, people who write in marketing and promotion. Magazines also need people who are primarily researchers to check the accuracy of what they print. English majors are likely to be attractive to employers in these industries, and are likely to find they really make good use of their skills in a publishing environment.

Theological Studies
Your analytical skills might also lead to seminary or divinity school. Analyzing texts is an important part of the study of theology. Another important part is understanding the needs of a wide variety of people, and the breadth of human knowledge an English major gains through reading literature can be of considerable use in this regard, as well.

Librarianship
This career combines reading and research in an environment dominated by books; for librarians at university libraries, writing is also a key component. The English major is excellent preparation for this career, which requires a master’s degree in library science.

If you’re not drawn to any of these possibilities, remember not to rule anything out-- English majors find jobs everywhere. Go to our English home page to see what some recent graduates are currently doing.

Writing
If what you want is to write, you should look for jobs in all of the obvious places and the less obvious ones. You might enjoy a job writing for a magazine or newspaper. You might find interesting career opportunities as a technical writer in any number of different settings, including government agencies and private industry. Many businesses employ people whose primary responsibility is writing, including advertising firms, public relations firms, and large corporations. These jobs are not always high profile, so identifying them takes some research. Creative writing on a freelance basis is a dream of many English majors, and can be combined if necessary with teaching, publishing, or a steady writing job.
Graduate School for English Majors

Recent English Majors have been accepted into

- English/Creative Writing Ph.D. programs
- Law Schools
- Business Schools
- Education MA/PhD programs
- Or have pursued the Alternate Route to Teaching Certification in Mississippi

For each of these graduate programs, English Majors must take an important standardized exam their junior or senior year: the GRE (Graduate Record Examination), the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test), GMAT (Graduate Management Admissions Test), or Praxis I and II.

The Mississippi State University Assessment & Testing Services (662.325.6610) accepts appointments to take most of these exams at its computer based testing center on campus. The Law School Admissions Council offers the LSAT three times a year at a designated location.

These tests are challenging and English Majors who are admitted into nationally ranked programs often prepare for them ahead of time.

The educational testing services at www.ets.org, www.mba.com, or www.lsac.org, offer preparation books for each exam, and students can purchase other preparation guides at a local bookstore. Companies such as Stanley Kaplan and Princeton Review also offer courses in test preparation.

For more information about these graduate exams, contact

MSU Assessment & Testing
195 Magruder Street
3rd house behind Rice Hall
662.325.6610
“Being that can be understood is language.”
Hans-Georg Gadamer

“There are only two or three human stories, and they go on repeating themselves as fiercely as if they had never happened before.” Willa Cather

“Poetry, that is to say the poetic, is a primal necessity.”
Marianne Moore

“Thinking isn’t agreeing or disagreeing. That’s voting.” Robert Frost

“Unless one is a genius, it is best to aim at being intelligible.”
Anthony Hope

“The thing that teases the mind over and over for years, and at last gets itself put down rightly on paper—whether little or great, it belongs to literature.” Sarah Orne Jewett

“The first law of storytelling: every man is bound to leave a story better than he found it.”
Mrs. Humphrey Ward

“I know I can’t change the future, but I can change the past.”
Toni Morrison

“It is necessary to write, if the days are not to slip emptily by. How else, indeed, to clap the net over the butterfly of the moment? For the moment passes, it is forgotten; the mood is gone; life itself is gone. That is where the writer scores over his fellows: he catches the changes of his mind on the hop.” Vita Sackville-West