“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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Read This First:

Student Responsibilities

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. Check your MSU email regularly. This is the primary means that the university, the department, and your professors will use to contact you.

3. Make an appointment with your English Department advisor during the advising period every semester. You will get an email when it’s time to sign up for advising. The advising periods are typically in the last two weeks of October and March, immediately preceding pre-registration. *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 662-325-3644 or go to Lee 2000, and an appointment will be set up for you with the appropriate advisor.

4. 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 13**; this way, you’ll always be able to see at a glance what requirements you have left.

5. If you find that you are unable to pre-register for the courses that you have chosen and that your advisor has approved, go ahead and sign up for substitute classes, but then inform your advisor of the substitutions you have made as soon as possible so that your advisor can confirm that they will satisfy the requirements you need them to.
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

Faculty offices are in both Lee Hall and the YMCA Building.

The main department office is Lee 2000, 662-325-3644; it is staffed from 8:00 to 5:00 every weekday. This is where you will sign up for your preregistration advising appointment every semester; it’s also the place to go if you don’t know who to ask about your problem or question.

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 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. Dr. Pizer will also be happy to talk to you about the Linguistics minor. You may e-mail her at gpizer@english.msstate.edu or call her at 662-325-2240. You will find Dr. Pizer in Lee 2305 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. Dan Punday, the head of the English Department. His office is located in Lee 2004, and you can contact him by email at dpunday@english.msstate.edu or by calling the main department number: 662-325-3644.

If you would like to find out more about creative writing, including the Creative Writing minor, you may contact Dr. Catherine Pierce (cp341@msstate.edu; Lee 2506) or Dr. Michael Kardos (mpk36@msstate.edu; YMCA 1390), Co-Directors of the Creative Writing Program in the English Department.

If you would like to find out more about the Film minor, you may contact Dr. Andrea Spain at aspain@english.msstate.edu or in Lee 2515.

If you would like to find out more about the TESOL certificate, you may contact Dr. Wendy Herd. Her office is YMCA 1400, and you can reach her by e-mail at wherd@english.msstate.edu.

If you would like to find out about internship opportunities and about the internship course, you may contact Abigail Voller. You will find her in Lee 2511, or you may e-mail her at internship@english.msstate.edu or lav9@english.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 Lee 2510, or you may 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. Shalyn Claggett, Director of Graduate Studies. You will find her in Lee 2304, or you may e-mail her at src173@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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Specializations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Anderson</td>
<td>Lee 2002</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tpanderson@english.msstate.edu">tpanderson@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Renaissance literature, particularly Shakespeare; critical theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Atkinson</td>
<td>Lee 2010</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tatkinson@english.msstate.edu">tatkinson@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>American literature, Southern literature, particularly Faulkner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalyn Claggett</td>
<td>Lee 2002</td>
<td><a href="mailto:src173@msstate.edu">src173@msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Nineteenth-century British literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter DeGabriele</td>
<td>YMCA 1340</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pdegab@english.msstate.edu">pdegab@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Eighteenth-century British literature; the novel; literary and cultural theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara Dodds</td>
<td>Lee 2304</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ldodds@english.msstate.edu">ldodds@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Renaissance literature; Milton; early modern prose; early modern women's writing, especially Margaret Cavendish; science and literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Flowers</td>
<td>Lee 2012</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ksf143@msstate.edu">ksf143@msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Rhetoric and composition; professional writing; language policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becky Hagenston</td>
<td>Lee 2006</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhagenston@english.msstate.edu">bhagenston@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Creative writing: fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Herd</td>
<td>YMCA 1400</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wherd@english.msstate.edu">wherd@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Linguistics: phonetics, phonology, psycholinguistics, and second language acquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Johnson</td>
<td>Lee 2005</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hjohnson@english.msstate.edu">hjohnson@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Old English and Middle English literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Kardos</td>
<td>YMCA 1390</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkardos@english.msstate.edu">mkardos@english.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>Creative writing: fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Little</td>
<td>Lee 2510</td>
<td><a href="mailto:littmatt@ra.msstate.edu">littmatt@ra.msstate.edu</a></td>
<td>American literature, including works by Henry James, William James, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald; legal writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kelly Marsh
Lee 2504  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

Elizabeth Miller
YMCA 1310  eae47@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Maryland
Rhetoric and composition; writing theory; rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement

Bonnie O’Neill
Lee 2508  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
Lee 2506  cpierce@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Missouri
Creative writing: poetry

Ginger Pizer
Lee 2305  gpizer@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Texas, Austin
Linguistics: sociolinguistics, child language acquisition, linguistics of signed languages and gesture

Dan Punday
Lee 2004  dpunday@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University
Narrative theory, contemporary literature, and electronic media

Donald Shaffer
Lee 2311  dshaffer@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Chicago
American literature, African-American literature and history, especially Charles Chesnutt

Megan Smith
YMCA 1440  ms4004@msstate.edu
Ph.D. Michigan State University
Linguistics: second language acquisition, syntax, psycholinguistics

Andrea Spain
Lee 2515  aspain@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University at Buffalo
Postcolonial literature, world literature, critical theory, film

Dhanashree Thorat
Ph.D. University of Florida
Asian American studies; multi-ethnic U.S. literatures; race, immigration, and American culture; digital media & social justice; Postcolonial digital humanities

Eric Vivier
Lee 2011  edv34@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Wisconsin–Madison
Renaissance literature

Jervette Ward
YMCA 1380  jward@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Memphis
African-American literature, especially Zora Neale Hurston; American cultural studies, especially reality TV

Robert West
Lee 2008  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

**English Studies (EN 1111):** an introduction to the English major, to be taken in your first year

**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 Lit. of the 16th Century  
EN 4713 English Lit. 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 Lit. and Culture 1660-1700  
EN 4733 British Lit. and Culture 18th Cent.  
EN 4743 Romantic Literature and Culture  
EN 4863 Romantic Poets and Prose Writers  
EN 4883 Victorian Poets and Prose Writers

1 course from **Group III**  
(Postcolonial and World Literatures)  
or 1 more course from either Group I or II  
EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory  
EN 4813 The World Novel

2 courses from **Group IV**  
(American Literature):  
EN 4333 Southern Literature  
EN 4343 African American Literature  
EN 4833 The American Short Story  
EN 4893 American Literature to 1800  
EN 4903 American Literature 1800-1860  
EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900  
EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature
Vocational Elective:
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 Principles of 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. (EN 2203 Intro to Literature is intended for non-majors and will not satisfy this requirement.)

In Literature:
EN 2263 Intro to African American Literature
EN 2273 World Literature Before 1600
EN 2283 World Literature After 1600
EN 2434 Literature and Film
EN 2443 Introduction to Science Fiction
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
EN 3533 Selected Authors
EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900

In Creative Writing:
EN 3303 Creative Writing
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
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 2403 Introduction to the Study of 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
EN 4473 Phonetics
EN 4623 Language and Culture
EN 4633 Language and Society

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. Some common career-oriented minors for English majors include Pre-Law, Journalism, Public Relations, Marketing, Religion, and the TESOL Certificate.
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 will be asked to submit to the Department to help us assess our program.
SAMPLE CURRICULUM FOR THE B.A. IN ENGLISH

**FRESHMAN YEAR**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>EN 1103 English Composition I&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN 1113 English Composition II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLX 1113 Foreign Language I&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>FLX 1123 Foreign Language II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA 1313 College Algebra&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MA 1323 or 2113 Trigonometry or Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI xxxx Required History course&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CO 1003 or 1013 Fund. of Pub. Speaking or Intro. to Comm.</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 1111 English Studies</td>
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**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN 2213 English Literature Before 1800&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN 2223 English Literature After 1800&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 2243 American Literature Before 1865&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN 2253 American Literature After 1865&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLX 2133 Foreign Language III</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>FLX 2143 Foreign Language IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Social Science course&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Required Social Science course&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HI xxxx Required History course&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Required Science course&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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**JUNIOR YEAR**

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<tr>
<td>EN 3414 Critical Writing and Research in Lit. Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>EN 4xxx Course from Group I (British Lit. before 1660)&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN xxxx Vocational Elective&lt;sup&gt;i&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN 4xxx Course from Group II (British Lit. after 1660)&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Social Science course&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Required Social Science course&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Fine Arts course&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Required Science course&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI xxxx Required Philosophy course&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15-16</strong></td>
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SENIOR YEAR

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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN 4xxx Course from Group III (Postcolonial &amp; World Lit.)&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN 4xxx Course from Group IV (American &amp; Contemporary Lit.)&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 4xxx Course from Group IV (American &amp; Contemporary Lit.)&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EN xxxx English Elective&lt;sup&gt;i&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper-division Humanities (HI/PHI/FL) course</td>
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<td>General Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Social Science course&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Elective</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN 4111 Portfolio and Reflective Writing</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Students with an ACT English subscore of 28+ may take EN 1173 Accelerated English Composition II in their first semester. Students with an ACT English subscore of 32+ who are members of the Honors College may take EN 1113H Honors English Composition II in their first semester. Upon successful completion, they will receive S credit for EN 1103.

<sup>b</sup> The major requires fourth semester proficiency in a foreign language. Students with previous background should take a placement test to determine the appropriate class level.

<sup>c</sup> Students must take either College Algebra and Trigonometry or Statistics (6 hours) or Calculus (MA 1463) or higher (3 hours). Students with an ACT Math subscore of 26+ may take specified sections of Trigonometry or Statistics and upon successful completion earn S credit for MA 1313.

<sup>d</sup> See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

<sup>e</sup> Six Social Science classes are required. At least two must come from the Arts & Sciences list. No more than two courses per discipline, covering at least four different disciplines.

<sup>f</sup> Students must take three Science classes: One Life Science course with lab, one Physical Science course with lab, and one more Science course in any field, with or without a lab. See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

<sup>g</sup> The four required literature survey courses may be taken in any order.

<sup>h</sup> 4000-level literature courses may be taken in any order. See departmental list for courses approved for each Group.

<sup>i</sup> See departmental list for approved courses.

<sup>j</sup> Any English course except EN 2203 Introduction to Literature.
Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Studies (EN 1111)</td>
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<td>Comp I (EN 1103, 1163, or 1103H)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Comp II (EN 1113, 1173, or 1113H)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language 1113 Elementary I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language 1123 Elementary II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Language 2133 Intermediate III</td>
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<td>Foreign Language 2143 Intermediate IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Early” History (HI 1063, 1163, 1213, 1313, or 3013)</td>
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<td>“Late” History (HI 1073, 1173, 1223, 1323, or 3023)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Division Humanities (HI, PHI, FL) OR Study Abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Science w/ Lab (BIO or AN 1344)</td>
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<tr>
<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>College Algebra (MA 1313) and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trigonometry (MA 1323) or Statistics (MA 2113)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR Calculus (MA 1613) or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Arts Appreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences from at least 4 areas: AN, CRM, GR, PS (but not PS 1182/1192), 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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<tr>
<td>Public Speaking (CO 1003 or 1013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Literature Before 1800 (EN 2213)</td>
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<td>English Literature After 1800 (EN 2223)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Literature Before 1865 (EN 2243)</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Literature After 1865 (EN 2253)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Writing and Research (EN 3414)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 4 Pre-1660 British (Group I)</td>
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<tr>
<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) 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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<tr>
<td>EN 4 American or Contemporary (Group IV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 3 or 4 Vocational</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 4111 Portfolio and Reflective Writing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives:</th>
<th>Sem</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

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 15.

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) from the College of Arts and Sciences at MSU 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 at the 2000 level and above.

4. You should take EN 3414, Critical Writing and Research, before your first 4000-level literature course.

5. If you receive financial aid from the state of Mississippi (e.g., MTAG or MESG), you must complete at least 15 hours per semester. If you do not have 15 hours of requirements remaining in your final semester, you may apply for a waiver. Other sources of financial aid require only 12 hours per semester.

A few notes on CAPP:
This checklist is a duplicate of the online CAPP compliance available to you through Banner. To make sure you are seeing an up-to-date record, generate a new CAPP compliance every time you look at it. CAPP is a very useful tool, but there can be problems with relying on it exclusively, because it is only as good as its programming. For example, CAPP sometimes counts more than two courses from the same area toward the social science requirements, but the university does not. CAPP also doesn’t know what to do with special topics courses or many transfer courses. When in doubt, ask your advisor.
### Specific courses for Arts & Sciences core requirements

#### History (one early, one late)
- HI 1063: Early U.S. History
- HI 1073: Modern U.S. History
- HI 1163: World History Before 1500
- HI 1173: World History Since 1500
- HI 1213: Early Western World
- HI 1223: Modern Western World
- HI 1313: East Asian Civilizations to 1300
- HI 1323: East Asian Civilizations since 1300
- HI 3013: African American History to 1865
- HI 3023: African American History since 1865

#### Social and Behavioral Sciences
(6 courses in 4 areas; at least 2 courses from list; only 1 CO or EC)
- AN 1103: Introduction to Anthropology
- AN 1143: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- AN 1543: Introduction to Archaeology
- AN 2403: Introduction to the Study of Language
- CO 1223: Introduction to Communication Theory
- CO 1403: Introduction to the Mass Media
- EC 1033: Economics of Social Issues
- EC 2113: Principles of Macroeconomics
- EC 2123: Principles of Microeconomics
- EN 2403: Introduction to the Study of Language
- GR 1123: Introduction to World Geography
- GR 2013: Cultural Geography
- HON 1173: The West and the Wider World
- HON 3143: Honors Seminar in Social Science
- PS 1113: American Government
- PS 1313: Introduction to International Relations
- PS 1513: Comparative Government
- PSY 1013: General Psychology
- PSY 3073: Psychology of Interpersonal Relations
- SO 1003: Introduction to Sociology
- SO 1103: Contemporary Social Problems
- SO 1203: Sociology of Families

#### Natural Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN 1244</td>
<td>Introduction to Biological Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1004</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1023</td>
<td>Plants and Humans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1123</td>
<td>Animal Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1134</td>
<td>Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 1144</td>
<td>Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 2113</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 3103</td>
<td>Genetics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 3304</td>
<td>General Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1043</td>
<td>Survey of Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CH 1213</td>
<td>Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1053</td>
<td>Survey of Chemistry II</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CH 1233</td>
<td>Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1051</td>
<td>Experimental Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH 1211</td>
<td>Investigations in Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH 1221</td>
<td>Investigations in Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG 1111</td>
<td>Earth Sciences I Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>GG 1113</td>
<td>Survey of Earth Sciences I</td>
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<tr>
<td>GG 1121</td>
<td>Earth Sciences II Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>GG 1123</td>
<td>Survey of Earth Sciences II</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR 1114</td>
<td>Elements of Physical Geography</td>
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<tr>
<td>GR 1604</td>
<td>Weather and Climate</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 3163</td>
<td>Honors Seminar in Natural Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1011</td>
<td>Physical Science Laboratory I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1063</td>
<td>Descriptive Astronomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1021</td>
<td>Physical Science Laboratory 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1013</td>
<td>Physical Science Survey I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 1023</td>
<td>Physical Science Survey 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1113</td>
<td>General Physics I</td>
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<td>PH 2213</td>
<td>Physics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 1123</td>
<td>General Physics II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 2223</td>
<td>Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 1133</td>
<td>General Physics III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 2233</td>
<td>Physics III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Fine Arts

Choose one of the following:
- AAS 1103: African American Music
- ARC 1013: Architectural Appreciation
- ART 1013: Art History I
- ART 1023: Art History II
- ART 1113: Art Appreciation
- CO 1503: Introduction to the Theatre
- HON 3173: Honors Seminar in Fine Arts
- MU 1103: African American Music
- MU 1113: History and Appreciation of Music
- MU 1123: History and Appreciation of American Music
- MU 1133: The History of Rock and Roll
- MU 3023: Survey of Western Music History II
- PE 1323: History and Appreciation of Dance
EN Course Rotation
When will the course I want to take be offered?

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 a few of these courses in the summer, as well.

**Fall, even-numbered years**
- EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar
- EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film
- EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
- EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
- EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
- EN 4323 Literary Criticism Plato to Present
- EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
- EN 4473 Phonetics
- EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
- EN 4623 Language and Culture
- EN 4663 20th C British and Irish Novel
- EN 4703 16th C English Lit
- EN 4743 Romantic Lit and Culture
- 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 3903 Intermediate Fiction
- EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
- EN 4243 Writing Center Tutor Training
- EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900
- EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory
- EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition
- EN 4473 Phonetics
- EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)
- EN 4533 Milton
- EN 4623 Language and Culture
- EN 4643 18th C British Novel
- EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900
- EN 4833 American Short Story
- EN 4883 Victorian Poetry and Prose
- EN 4933 Contemporary Lit

**Spring, odd-numbered years**
- EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
- EN 2434 Literature and Film
- EN 2443 Science Fiction
- EN 3513 Women and Literature
- EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
- EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
- EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
- EN 4333 Southern Lit
- 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 4723 British Lit/Cult 1660-1700
- EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900
- EN 4813 World Novel Since 1900
- EN 4863 Romantic Poetry and Prose
- EN 4893 American Lit to 1800

**Spring, even-numbered years**
- EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language
- EN 2434 Literature and Film
- EN 2443 Science Fiction
- EN 3513 Women and Literature
- EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
- EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing
- EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
- EN 4313 Craft of Fiction
- EN 4343 African-American Lit
- 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 19th C British Novel
- EN 4713 17th C EnglishLit
- EN 4733 Brit/Lit Culture 18th Century
- EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
- EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry
English Department Scholarships

To apply for any MSU scholarship, log into MyState, look in Banner under “Financial Aid and Scholarships,” and click “Submit/Revise General Scholarship Application.” You’ll be asked to log in again immediately, and then you will be ready to complete the “General Application.” Remember to “Save” as you go. After you complete the General Application, several scholarships may be suggested to you by the system—please feel free to look into these.

The system may not suggest our English Department scholarships to you—you will have to seek those one by one in the system and complete the extra requirements for each. At this point, it’s a good idea to go to the English Department website, look under “Undergraduate Studies,” and click on “Scholarships.” Read about each scholarship you wish to apply for and what extra steps you need to take, including asking for letters of recommendation and, in some cases, writing an essay. You should feel free to email the faculty contact for each scholarship with any questions you may have.

For any English major:

Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, KMarsh@english.msstate.edu

Roger LeMoyne Dabbs Memorial Scholarship

Helen W. Skelton Annual Scholarship

Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Scholarship

For upper-division English majors:

Howell H. & Elizabeth S. Gwin Scholarship
Contact: Dr. Matthew Little, littmatt@ra.msstate.edu

William H. Magruder Memorial Scholarship
Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, KMarsh@english.msstate.edu

The Lewis & Betty Nolan Book Award
Contact: Dr. Peter DeGabriele, pdegab@english.msstate.edu

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

Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award
Contact: Dr. Michael Kardos, mpk36@msstate.edu
Internships

Internships allow you to gain valuable work experience and apply your knowledge and skills in your potential field and make professional connections with others in your industry; internships also allow you to test-drive an industry to ensure that it is the best fit for you. As an English major, you are cultivating skills and knowledge that will help you stand out and excel at your career, such as effective communication, research and analysis skills, and independent and creative-complex thinking, and you can enhance these skills through an internship. In general, interning and volunteering show potential employers that you are committed to your future and are actively learning more about your career path, and this gives you more weight in their employment considerations.

Internship Program:
Typically, there are paid and unpaid internships, and both types can receive course credit in the Internship Program. In order to receive course credit, students must take the internship course during their internship term and complete the course guidelines along with their internship. The English Internship Program offers junior and senior English majors and minors with a GPA of 2.8 or higher the opportunity to apply for placement in a semester-long English internship for three (3) academic credit hours (English elective credit). The internship consists of supervised work experience and realistic job training of at least 120 hours in related English areas and 30 hours of coursework during the semester, with evaluations by both instructor and supervisor. Students must receive the permission of the instructor in order to add the course to their spring schedule.

The benefits of the program (in addition to the course elective credit) include offering a network of support via a community of interns and an instructor along with reflective work that will help hone students’ professional abilities. Our current interns have had varied experiences that have cultivated their professional abilities and taught them invaluable lessons before entering the work force.

Other Internship Information:
English students can, of course, complete internships apart from the Internship Program, and these students are still encouraged to discuss their options with the internship coordinator to ensure the best internship experience possible. In addition, students who are interested in internships but are unsure how to proceed are welcome to meet with the internship coordinator in order to get an idea of their options.

Available Funding: The College of Arts and Sciences is currently offering undergraduate grants to help fund internships.

For further information, please contact Internship Coordinator L. Abigail Voller at internship@english.msstate.edu or lav9@english.msstate.edu to set up an appointment.
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. Catherine Pierce or Dr. Michael Kardos.

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

The Linda Brasher/Mary Ann Dazey Writing Award
Papers are nominated for this award by professors in English 3414: Critical Writing and Research in Literary Studies.
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 ceremony 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 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 website 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. DeGabriele’s office (YMCA 1340), emailing him at pdegab@english.msstate.edu or calling 325-3644.
About the Writing Center:
The Mississippi State University Writing Center dedicates itself to helping all MSU students develop as writers and critical thinkers. We are available in person and online to writers who want to think about, talk about, and work on their writing and the ideas they want that writing to communicate. We’re open almost 70 hours a week and offer 30- and 60-minute consultations as well as walk-in appointments, free of charge, to all MSU students. We are prepared to work with writers on a variety of genres (including assignments for class, professional documents and materials, and creative works as well), and we are also prepared to work with writers during any stage of their writing processes (to brainstorm, develop, revise, and edit). It’s a good idea to think of us as a place to work on your writing, rather than as a finishing service. We won’t edit your writing—we will, however, work with you to develop and support ideas, locate and use research, and address audiences appropriately. We’ll also work with you to become a better self-editor.

You can schedule an appointment three different ways:
- You can register and schedule with our online system at [http://msstate.mywconline.com](http://msstate.mywconline.com).
- You can call our main location at 662-325-1045, and one of our staff members will assist you in registering and scheduling through our online system.
- You can stop in at our main location during working hours and one of our staff members will assist you in registering and scheduling through our online system.

We also take walk-in appointments at all of our locations, as long as we have a writing consultant who is not already scheduled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Directions and Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The House at 94 President’s Circle (Main Location)</td>
<td>Across the street from Allen Hall, next to the McCarthy Gym parking lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile in Templeton Athletic Center (Student-Athletes Only)</td>
<td>Lower level of the Templeton Athletic Center, across from the elevator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile in the Library with Research Services</td>
<td>In Research Services on the main floor of the Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Once you make an online appointment, log back in to <a href="http://msstate.mywconline.com">http://msstate.mywconline.com</a> five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. Then, open this appointment and click &quot;Start or Join Online Consultation.&quot; This will open your online session and connect you with a writing consultant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See [http://msstate.mywconline.com](http://msstate.mywconline.com) for this semester’s hours for all locations.
Creative Writing

Creative Writing at Mississippi State focuses on the study of fiction and poetry writing, including the learning of techniques, forms, and approaches of creative expression. Creative writing offers students the opportunity to use language as a means of making art that explores the complexity of human experience. A background in creative writing prepares students for a variety of future paths, including teaching, editing, publishing, law, advertising, public relations, and any career that places emphasis on the written word.

UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN CREATIVE WRITING

The minor in creative writing requires 18 semester hours (six courses) with a grade of C or above in each course. Transfer credit awarded if approved by the Director of the Creative Writing Program.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR THE MINOR

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

EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
An intermediate course in the craft and art of poetry writing, focusing on techniques such as lineation, formal strategies, and poetic language.

EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
An intermediate course in the craft and art of fiction writing, focusing on techniques such as setting, dialogue, and characterization.

1-2 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

EN 4303 Craft of Poetry:
The craft and practice of writing poetry. (For students who have taken EN 3803 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

EN 4313 Craft of Fiction:
The craft and practice of writing fiction. (For students who have taken EN 3903 or who have been approved by writing faculty.)

1-2 OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

EN 4943 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 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 vocational requirement, and the other courses as electives. Doing so will allow you to explore this interest, enhance your English major, and lead you toward the minor. It could also prepare you for a graduate program in creative writing.

In addition to taking courses in creative writing, students benefit from a robust visiting writers series and may join the staff of Jabberwock Review, the university’s national literary journal. The Shackouls Honors College regularly hosts open mic nights and produces an undergraduate creative arts journal, The Streetcar, specifically for student writing.
Undergraduate Minor in Film Studies

The Minor in Film Studies provides students with a strong background in the study of film language, history, theory, and production, emphasizing varied filmmaking practices throughout the world. The minor is open to undergraduate students in good standing in any major.

Curriculum
The minor requires a minimum of 19 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. Possible courses are listed below. Up to two additional Special Topics, Honors Courses, or Directed Individual Study courses will count toward the minor when approved by the advisor of the Minor in Film Studies. Other substitutions are unlikely, but if a student believes that a non-listed course is centrally related to the field of Film, the student may petition the Film Studies Committee to approve counting the course toward the minor. Courses that are cross-listed in more than one department may be taken under any cross-listing.

Required course
ART/CO/EN 2904 Introduction to Film

1-3 Core Courses
CO 3903 Advanced Cinema Studies  
ART/CO/EN 4924 Film Theory  
ART/CO/EN 4124 Topics in Film

2-4 Electives
ART 3613 Art and Film  
ART 3643 Art of the Graphic Novel  
ART 2103 Photography Survey  
ART 3233 Studio Lighting  
ART 3633 History of Photography  
ART 3873 Digital Photography  
ART 4963 Video Art  
CO 2503 Acting  
CO 3403 Photographic Communication  
CO/GS Gender and Media  
CO 4433 Advanced Photo Communication  
CO 4504 History of Theatre  
CO 4524 Directing  
CO/AAS/SO 4643 Race and the Media  
EN 2434 Literature and Film  
EN 3523 Shakespeare and Film

Restrictions
In general, students may count no more than two courses toward both the requirements of the Minor in Film and the requirements of any other major or minor. See the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin for details.

For more information or to declare your intention to pursue the Minor in Film Studies, contact Dr. Andrea Spain at aspain@english.msstate.edu.


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/PSY 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 or visit our website at https://www.english.msstate.edu/linguistics/linguistics-minor/
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 ESL 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: Wendy Herd, wherd@english.msstate.edu
Or visit our website: https://www.english.msstate.edu/linguistics/tesol/
Requirements for graduation:

Courses:
You will need to take all courses and fulfill all requirements as explained on pages 13-14.

Grades and GPA:
You need at least a C in all English courses at the 2000 level and above. Also, you will need an overall grade point average of 2.0. (You have the option of retaking 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 completed 75 credits, you will be notified that you must see the Director of Undergraduate Studies in English to complete your 75-Hour Checksheet during the next advising period. 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 be placed on hold, and you will not be allowed to register for the following semester.

Application for Graduation:
During your final semester at MSU, you will apply to graduate through Banner. During this process, you will also apply for any minors you expect to earn. 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 includes a simple online form, an accompanying letter is nearly always expected. Writing recommendations takes time, so plan accordingly.

Information to provide:
Be sure to give your recommenders clear submission instructions or tell them how they will receive those instructions from the institutions you’re applying to. Also tell them the specific program you’re applying to and share materials that will help them write their letters (e.g., a draft of any required application essays, copies of work you did for their classes). When you are submitting your recommenders’ names to the institutions, you will be offered 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!
Careers for English Majors

“I love English majors. I love how smart they are. I love how well read they are. I love their ability to write well and think critically, and most of all, I love to hire them. For my money, I think English majors are a great choice for any entrepreneur’s next employee or intern.”

“Looking back at the tech teams that I’ve built at my companies, it’s evident that individuals with liberal arts degrees are by far the sharpest, best-performing software developers and technology leaders. … If more tech hires held a philosophy or English degree with some programming on the side, we might in the end create better leaders in technology and life.”

The skills in research, writing, and critical thinking that you develop as an English major are applicable to a wide variety of careers. With such a broad range of possibilities before you, you might be having trouble choosing among them, but there are a number of resources to help you decide how to put your English major to work for you.

The English Department’s Career Mentor program brings professionals with an undergraduate degree in English to your English Studies class (EN 1111) and makes them available to you by email to answer your career questions. The department’s current career mentors are listed on pp. 29-30.

The English department has connections to internship opportunities; see p. 18 of this handbook to find out more.

The Career Center on campus has excellent advisors and computer resources to help you assess your own skills and interests, research fields you don’t know much about yet, and look for specific job opportunities. They also have information on internships and summer jobs, so don’t wait until your last semester to visit. To get started, check out their website (http://www.career.msstate.edu/) and/or contact Daniel Morgan, the Career Center’s coordinator for Arts & Sciences majors, at dmorgan@career.msstate.edu.

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:

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, non-profit organizations, 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. Depending on the arena you’d like to write in, you may find it useful to pursue a minor in journalism or public relations through the Department of Communication (https://www.comm.msstate.edu/academics/minors/) or a minor in marketing through the College of Business (https://www.business.msstate.edu/pdf/Business_Minors_Brochure.pdf).

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, non-profit organizations, 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.
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. Also consider pursuing a pre-law minor; see the curriculum here: http://www.pspa.msstate.edu/pdf/prelaw.pdf.

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 (see http://distance.msstate.edu/mats/ for information on the Alternate Route to Certification). 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.

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, and 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. Minors in journalism or marketing can be useful for English majors going into publishing; for editing specifically, a course that will give you practical skills is CO 2423 News Editing, Typography, and Makeup (with prerequisite CO 2413 Intro to News Writing and Reporting).

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. You may want to pursue a minor or double major in Religion if you are considering this route.

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, Facebook page, and department newsletter to see what some recent graduates are currently doing.
English Department Career Mentors

From employers we know that English majors help students get good jobs, and when English alumni are surveyed a few years after graduation, they're overwhelmingly happy with their choice of major. But sometimes it's hard for them to imagine their future careers. Our Career Mentor program is designed to help you imagine your future career, and how to get there. We have assembled a group of eight professionals with an undergraduate degree in English whose careers can serve as an inspiration for our students. Our mentors will visit your Introduction to English Studies class (EN 1111) and will be available by email to answer questions that you have about career options.

Sheena Allen

Ms. Allen graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English in May 2006 and subsequently earned a Juris Doctorate from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in May 2009.

Following admission to the Alabama State Bar in September 2009, Ms. Allen began her career as a Deputy District Attorney in Montgomery, Alabama. In that capacity, her law practice was focused largely on litigation, managing felony cases throughout the various phases of criminal prosecution, such as grand jury proceedings, bench and jury trials, and post-conviction matters. Currently, Ms. Allen works as a Deputy District Attorney for a federal governmental agency, where her chief duty is drafting opinions for Administrative Law Judges regarding claims arising under Title II and Title XVI of the Social Security Act.

Melody Pittman Dale

Melody Dale is the Coordinator of Old Main Academic Center and Education Librarian at Mississippi State University Libraries. She received her BA in English from Mississippi State University in 2008. After graduating from MSU, she spent two years serving in AmeriCorps in Grenada School District, which piqued her interest in literacy and libraries. She graduated with her Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2012. Her research interests include the library’s role in first year experience, open access, information literacy, and cataloging. Prior to her current position, she served as a serials cataloger at Mississippi State University Libraries.

Kristen Dechert

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Kristen Dechert currently works for Ours to Change, a nonprofit agency based in Jackson, Mississippi. As director of women in leadership, Kristen recruits and trains women to run for elective office around the state. After earning her master’s in English from Mississippi State in 2007, she went on to work for the university for over a decade. Most recently, she directed communication, research, and evaluation at the Research and Curriculum Unit, a center focused on K-12 public education. In this role, she oversaw production of several communications projects, managed research and evaluation projects, and coordinated the Mississippi Education Policy Fellowship Program. Prior to joining the RCU in 2011, she was a technical writer and editor for MSU’s Energy Institute. She has taught technical writing, literature, and academic-writing courses over the years and also has served on textbook editorial review boards and as an expert reviewer for linguistic research.

Maridith Walker Geuder

A West Point native, Maridith Walker Geuder served most recently as the Mississippi College for Women’s comprehensive marketing and communication strategies news Communicator, from which she retired last year. Her career has included positions at two Southeastern Conference institutions, including 22 years at Mississippi State University and four years at The University of Alabama. She also served four years at Southern Living magazine in Birmingham, Ala.
Daniel Hart

After four wonderful years, I earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Architecture from MSU in 2014. In June 2014, I immediately entered the Mississippi Teacher Corps, a 2-year Ole Miss graduate program designed to train and place alternate route teachers in critical-needs school districts in Mississippi. I could never describe the world-opening joys and experiences of my brief teaching career here. I taught for three years at North Panola High School in Sardis, MS and will soon begin my second year at Byhalia Middle School in Byhalia, MS.

Lisa McMurtray

A native of Mississippi, Lisa McMurtray earned her BA and MA in English from Mississippi State University and her MFA in creative writing from Florida State University. She taught freshman English at the college level for five years, and her poems have appeared in The Cincinnati Review, Ninth Letter, West Branch, and The Journal. After graduating from FSU, she secured the McRae Publishing Internship at University Press of Mississippi, where she learned about academic publishing and acquisitions editorial. Since 2015, she has been an Editorial Assistant at UPM, working primarily in the fields of African American, comics studies, Caribbean studies, history and media studies.

Courtney McCreary

Born and raised in Mississippi, Courtney McCreary earned her BA and MA in English (with an emphasis in Creative Writing) from Mississippi State University. Since writing the first few chapters of novels does not pay bills, she searched for a career that would keep her in the literary world. In 2011, she began working as the Marketing Assistant at the University Press of Mississippi. Since 2017, she has been the Publicity and Promotions Manager at UPM where she promotes over a hundred books every year. She lives and writes in Jackson, Mississippi.

Margaret Pitts

Margaret Pitts graduated from Mississippi State University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in public relations. After she left Mississippi State, Margaret moved to Jackson, Mississippi, and began working as an Executive Assistant at Ballew Wealth Management, a private investment and retirement planning firm. At Ballew, Margaret provides support for two of the financial advisors at the firm. Her duties include assisting with presentation preparation for and organization of client meetings, providing personalized support to clients regarding their accounts, and creating marketing content such as print products.

Sarah Shields

With a background in English and a deep love of literature, it was only natural that Sarah found her way to a creative and wordy career. As a copywriter for a full-service marketing agency in Atlanta, Sarah uses her skills to tell stories. After all, every brand has a story just waiting to be discovered, and it’s her job to tell those stories in ways that connect people and spark conversations. From website content and social media to magazine ads and billboards, Sarah loves the challenge of finding the right words for the right situation. Since graduating Magna Cum Laude from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Sarah has worked as a copywriter for various marketing companies including Momentum Consulting, Response Mine Interactive, and her current company, Brown Bag Marketing. Outside of work, Sarah loves reading, traveling, hiking the North Georgia mountains, drinking as much tea as possible, and exploring the Atlanta food scene.
Graduate School for English Majors

Recent English Majors have been accepted into

- English MA/PhD programs
- Creative Writing MFA/PhD programs
- Law Schools
- Linguistics/Applied Linguistics MA/PhD programs
- Business Schools
- Education MA/PhD programs
- Or have pursued the Alternate Route to Teaching Certification in Mississippi

For each of these graduate programs, applicants 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. Check early to find out the exam requirements for any program you’re interested in applying to.

Mississippi State University’s Computer-Based Testing Services 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 and to register to take them, contact

Computer-Based Testing Services
180 Magruder Street
(Basement of Rice Hall)
662-325-6610
testing@saffairs.msstate.edu
http://www.cbt.msstate.edu/
“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

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Willa Cather

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

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

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

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

“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

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