



**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

# **The English Major**

## **Handbook**

2023-2024

*“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 preregistration. *If you haven't met with your advisor, you can't preregister, 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/DegreeWorks 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 Allen Hall.

The **English student lounge** is in Allen 270; you are welcome to hang out there between classes, and it will be the site for meetings of Bully's Bards, MSU's English club.

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**, or how to go about planning a **minor** in another field, 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](mailto: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. Lara Dodds, the head of the English Department. Her office is located in Lee 2304, and you can contact her by email at [ldodds@english.msstate.edu](mailto:ldodds@english.msstate.edu) or by calling the main department number: 662-325-3644.

If you would rather discuss your question or concern with another student who can find out information or reach out to authorities on your behalf, you can contact the department's **student liaisons** at [studentliaison@english.msstate.edu](mailto:studentliaison@english.msstate.edu) or on Instagram [@englishliaisonmsu](https://www.instagram.com/englishliaisonmsu).

If you would like to find out about **internship opportunities**, the **internship course**, or the career preparation resources at **English@Work**, you may contact Ms. Abigail Voller. You will find her in Lee 2511, or you may e-mail her at [lav9@english.msstate.edu](mailto:lav9@english.msstate.edu) or call her at 662-325-2376.

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](mailto:cp341@msstate.edu)) or Ms. Becky Hagenston ([bhagenston@english.msstate.edu](mailto:bhagenston@english.msstate.edu)).

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

If you would like to find out more about the **TESOL minor**, you may contact Dr. Megan Smith. Her office is Lee 2502, and you can reach her by e-mail at [ms4004@msstate.edu](mailto:ms4004@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](mailto: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 2505, or you may e-mail her at [src173@msstate.edu](mailto:src173@msstate.edu).



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# 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)

Oral Communication

Foreign Language I-IV

Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus

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 fall semester

## **Survey Courses**

All English majors take four courses that take a broad look at English and American literature. Students may take any four of the courses below, as long as they take at least one focused on each of the following: English literature, American literature, pre-1800 literature, and post-1800 literature. (A single course may satisfy multiple criteria simultaneously.)

EN 2213: English Literature Before 1800

EN 2223: English Literature After 1800

EN 2243: American Literature Before 1865

EN 2253: American Literature After 1865

EN 2263: Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature

EN 2363: Introduction to African American Literature

**Critical Writing and Research in Literary Studies (EN 3414)**: This course will introduce you to critical theories and help you develop the skills in research, analysis, and writing that you will need in your 4000-level literature courses. It is best to take this course at the same time as your last 2000-level survey course; do not take more than one other literature course simultaneously with this one.

## **4000-level Literature Courses**

All English majors take at least five high-level literature courses. The required distribution of these courses has recently changed. If you entered the major under the old curriculum, you may choose to follow either curriculum.

### **Literature & Culture: Periods & Figures**

(2 courses)

EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)

EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)

EN 4523 Chaucer

EN 4533 Milton

EN 4653 The Nineteenth-Century British Novel

EN 4663 British and Irish Novel Since 1900

EN 4703 English Lit of the 16th Century

EN 4713 English Lit of the 17th Century

EN 4733 British Lit & Culture of the 18th Cent

EN 4883 Victorian Poets and Prose Writers

EN 4893 American Literature to 1800

EN 4903 19th Century U.S. Literature

EN 4933 Survey of Contemporary Literature

### **Literature & Culture: Cultural Geographies**

(1 course)

EN 4333 Southern Literature

EN 4343 Studies in African American Literature

EN 4363 Global Anglophone Literatures

EN 4383 Digital Ethnic Studies

EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory

EN 4813 The World Novel Since 1900

EN 4xxx English Lit and the World Before 1800

### **Theory, Genre, and Methods**

(1 course)

EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato-Present  
EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900  
EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900  
EN 4823 Poetry since 1900

EN 4833 The Short Story  
EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900  
EN 4924 Film Theory  
EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction  
EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

**4000-level Literature Elective:** one more course from any of the three groups above

### **Fields of English Studies**

One 3000- or 4000-level EN course in an area other than literature or literary theory

EN 3243 Writing Center Tutor Training  
EN 3303 Creative Writing  
EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace  
EN 3333 Internship in English  
EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar  
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry Writing  
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction Writing  
EN 4124 Topics in Film  
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry  
EN 4313 Craft of Fiction  
EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing

EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy  
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 4493 TESOL Practicum  
EN 4623 Language and Culture  
EN 4633 Language and Society

### **English Elective**

All English majors take at least one additional English course, which may be chosen from any of the department's course offerings.

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

**Portfolio and Reflective Writing (EN 4111)** in your last fall semester as an English major

### **General Electives**

In addition to fulfilling all of these requirements, you will take 5 or 6 free electives (i.e., anything you want) to bring you to the 124-hour minimum for a BA. You may choose to use your electives to earn a minor in another field that will combine with your English major to help you reach your career and academic goals. Many minor requirements also fulfill core or major requirements, so plan ahead for maximum efficiency.

See pp. 22-25 of this handbook for details of the minors offered within the department: Creative Writing, Film Studies, Linguistics, and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Some common career-oriented minors for English majors include

- Pre-Law: <https://www.pspa.msstate.edu/pdf/prelaw.pdf>
- Print & Digital Journalism: <https://www.comm.msstate.edu/concentrations/minors>
- Public Relations: <https://www.comm.msstate.edu/concentrations/minors>
- Marketing: <https://www.business.msstate.edu/academics/minors>
- Religion: <https://www.philosophyandreligion.msstate.edu/prospective-students/majors-and-minors>

## **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**

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	1103	English Composition I <sup>a</sup>	3	EN	1113	English Composition II	3
FLX	1113	Foreign Language I <sup>b</sup>	3	FLX	1123	Foreign Language II	3
MA	1313 or 1213	College Algebra or Math in Your World <sup>c</sup>	3	MA	1323 or 2113	Trigonometry or Statistics	3
HI	xxxx	Required History course <sup>d</sup>	3	CO	1003 or 1013	Fund. of Pub. Speaking or Intro. to Comm.	3
		Required Social Science Course <sup>e</sup>				Required Science course <sup>f</sup>	3-4
EN	1111	English Studies	1				
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15-16</b>

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	2xxx	Literature course from list <sup>g</sup>	3	EN	2xxx	Literature course from list <sup>g</sup>	3
EN	2xxx	Literature course from list <sup>g</sup>	3	EN	2xxx	Literature course from list <sup>g</sup>	3
FLX	2133	Foreign Language III	3	FLX	2143	Foreign Language IV	3
		Required Social Science course <sup>e</sup>	3			Required Social Science course <sup>e</sup>	3
HI	xxxx	Required History course <sup>d</sup>	3			Required Science course <sup>f</sup>	3-4
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15-16</b>

**JUNIOR YEAR**

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	3414	Critical Writing and Research in Lit. Studies	4	EN	4xxx	Literature course in Periods and Figures <sup>h</sup>	3
EN	xxxx	Upper-division non-literature EN course	3	EN	4xxx	Literature course in Cultural Geographies <sup>h</sup>	3
		Required Social Science course <sup>e</sup>	3			Required Social Science course <sup>e</sup>	3
		Required Fine Arts course <sup>d</sup>	3			Required Science course <sup>f</sup>	3-4
PHI	xxxx	Required Philosophy course	3			General Elective	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15-16</b>

## SENIOR YEAR

Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
Course			Credit	Course			Credit
EN	4xxx	Literature course in Periods and Figures <sup>h</sup>	3	EN	4xxx	4000-level Literature Elective <sup>h</sup>	3
EN	4xxx	Literature course in Theory, Genre, & Methods <sup>h</sup>	3	EN	xxxx	English Elective <sup>i</sup>	3
		Upper-division Humanities (HI/PHI/FL) course	3			General Elective	3
		Required Social Science course <sup>e</sup>	3			General Elective	3
		General Elective	3			General Elective	3
EN	4111	Portfolio and Reflective Writing	1				
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15</b>

<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 are welcome to start at a higher class level.

<sup>c</sup> The math requirement is one 3-hour class, which may be Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus. Students with an ACT Math subscore of 24+ may go straight into one of those classes. Those with lower ACT scores must take a math prerequisite course following one of two pathways: College Algebra and Trigonometry or Statistics (6 hours), or Math in Your World and Statistics (6 hours).

<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 a lab, one physical science course with a lab, and one more science course in any field, with or without a lab. See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

<sup>g</sup> Students must take four 2000-level literature courses from the designated list, including at least one focused on each of the following: English literature, American literature, pre-1800 literature, post-1800 literature. A single course may satisfy multiple criteria simultaneously. They 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 category.

<sup>i</sup> 3000- or 4000-level EN course in any field of English studies other than literature or literary theory

<sup>j</sup> Any English course

### Check Sheet for the B.A. in English

	Sem	Notes
English Studies (EN 1111)	___	_____
Comp I (EN 1103)	___	_____
Comp II (EN 1113 or 1173)	___	_____
Foreign Language 1113 Elementary I	___	_____
Foreign Language 1123 Elementary II	___	_____
Foreign Language 2133 Intermediate III	___	_____
Foreign Language 2143 Intermediate IV	___	_____
History from A&S list _____	___	_____
History from A&S list _____	___	_____
Philosophy _____	___	_____
Upper Division Humanities (HI, PHI, FL) OR Study Abroad _____	___	_____
Life Science w/ Lab (BIO or AN 1344) _____	___	_____
Physical Science w/ Lab (CH, GG, GR, PH) _____	___	_____
Natural Science (any field, no lab req.) _____	___	_____
(if ACT<24) College Algebra (MA 1313) or Math in Your World (MA 1213 – leads only to Stats)		
Trigonometry (MA 1323) or Statistics (MA 2113) OR Calculus (MA 1613) or higher _____	___	_____
Fine Arts Appreciation _____	___	_____
<b>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.</b>		
SS _____	___	_____
Public Speaking (CO 1003 or 1013)	___	_____
EN 2 ___ Literature Survey _____	___	pre-1800 satisfied ___
EN 2 ___ Literature Survey _____	___	post-1800 satisfied ___
EN 2 ___ Literature Survey _____	___	English lit satisfied ___
EN 2 ___ Literature Survey _____	___	American lit satisfied ___
Critical Writing and Research (EN 3414)	___	_____
EN 4 ___ Periods & Figures	___	_____
EN 4 ___ Periods & Figure	___	_____
EN 4 ___ Cultural Geographies	___	_____
EN 4 ___ Theory, Genre, & Methods	___	_____
EN 4 ___ Literature Elective	___	_____
EN 3 ___ or 4 ___ Fields of English Studies	___	_____
EN _____	___	_____
EN 4111 Portfolio and Reflective Writing	___	_____

Electives:	Sem	Notes
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____
_____	---	_____

**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), 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, MESH, HELP), 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/DegreeWorks:

This checklist is a duplicate of the online CAPP compliance (soon to be replaced by DegreeWorks) available to you through Banner. To make sure you are seeing an up-to-date record, generate a new compliance every time you look at it. These online tools are very useful, but there can be problems with relying on them exclusively, because they are only as good as their programming. For example, they don't know what to do with special topics courses or many transfer courses. When in doubt, ask your advisor. If something is showing up wrong, tell your advisor or Dr. Pizer, and they'll get the dean's office to move it to the right place.

## Specific courses for Arts & Sciences core requirement

### History (any two)

HI 1003	History of Science in Six Ideas
HI 1013	History of Technology in Six Objects
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	Human 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

### Fine Arts

Choose one of the following:

AAS 1103	African American Music	MU 1113	History and Appreciation of Music
ARC 1013	Architectural Appreciation	MU 1123	History and Appreciation of American Music
ART 1013	Art History I	MU 1133	The History of Rock and Roll
ART 1023	Art History II	MU 1143	The History of Jazz
ART 1113	Art Appreciation	MU 1163	Introduction to Music in Film
CO 1503	Introduction to the Theatre	MU 1173	Music of the Beatles
HON 3173	Honors Seminar in Fine Arts	MU 2173	Women in Music
MU 1103	African American Music	MU 3013	Survey of Western Music History I
		PE 1323	History and Appreciation of Dance

### Natural Sciences <sup>3</sup>

AN 1344	Introduction to Biological Anthropology
BIO 1004	Anatomy and Physiology
BIO 1023	Plants and Humans
BIO 1123	Animal Biology
BIO 1134	Biology I
BIO 1144	Biology II
BIO 2113	Plant Biology
BIO 3103	Genetics I
BIO 3304	General Microbiology
CH 1043	Survey of Chemistry I
or CH 1213	Chemistry I
CH 1053	Survey of Chemistry II
or CH 1223	Chemistry II
CH 1051	Experimental Chemistry
CH 1211	Investigations in Chemistry I
CH 1221	Investigations in Chemistry II
GG 1111	Earth Sciences I Laboratory
GG 1113	Survey of Earth Sciences I
GG 1121	Earth Sciences II Laboratory
GG 1123	Survey of Earth Sciences II
GR 1114	Elements of Physical Geography
GR 1604	Weather and Climate
HON 3163	Honors Seminar in Natural Sciences
PH 1011	Physical Science Laboratory I
PH 1063	Descriptive Astronomy
PH 1021	Physical Science Laboratory 2
PH 1013	Physical Science Survey I
PH 1023	Physical Science Survey 2
PH 1113	General Physics I
PH 2213	Physics I
PH 1123	General Physics II
PH 2223	Physics II
PH 1133	General Physics III
PH 2233	Physics III

## **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, paying attention to it gives you the best chance of not missing a class you're particularly interested in.

#### **Fall, even-numbered years**

EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar  
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction  
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry  
EN 4323 Literary Criticism Plato to Present  
EN 4363 Global Anglophone Literatures  
EN 4413 History of the English Language  
EN 4453 Methods in TESOL  
EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition  
EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)  
EN 4633 Language and Society  
EN 4703 16th C English Lit  
EN 4903 19th Century U.S. Lit  
EN 4933 Contemporary Lit  
EN 4943 Form and Theory of Fiction

#### **Spring, odd-numbered years**

EN 2434 Literature and Film  
EN 2443 Science Fiction  
EN 3243 Writing Center Tutor Training  
EN 3333 Internship in English  
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 4433 Approaches to TESOL  
EN 4443 English Syntax  
EN 4473 Phonetics  
EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)  
EN 4523 Chaucer  
EN 4623 Language and Culture  
EN 4803 Types of Drama Since 1900  
EN 4813 World Novel Since 1900  
EN 4833 The Short Story  
EN 4883 Victorian Poetry and Prose  
EN 4893 American Lit to 1800

#### **Fall, odd-numbered years**

EN 3423 Descriptive English Grammar  
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction  
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry  
EN 4333 Southern Lit  
EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900  
EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory  
EN 4413 History of the English Language  
EN 4453 Methods in TESOL  
EN 4463 Second Language Acquisition  
EN 4503 Shakespeare (early)  
EN 4533 Milton  
EN 4633 Language and Society  
EN 4733 Brit/Lit Culture 18th Century  
EN 4823 Poetry Since 1900  
EN 4933 Contemporary Lit

#### **Spring, even-numbered years**

EN 2434 Literature and Film  
EN 2443 Science Fiction  
EN 3243 Writing Center Tutor Training  
EN 3333 Internship in English  
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 4383 Digital Ethnic Studies  
EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL  
EN 4443 English Syntax  
EN 4473 Phonetics  
EN 4513 Shakespeare (late)  
EN 4623 Language and Culture  
EN 4653 19th C British Novel  
EN 4663 20th C British and Irish Novel  
EN 4713 17th C English Lit  
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](mailto:KMarsh@english.msstate.edu)

*Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Scholarship*  
*Roger LeMoyné Dabbs Memorial Scholarship*  
*Mildred Freeman Shurlds English Annual Scholarship*  
*Helen W. Skelton Annual Scholarship*

### For incoming freshman English majors:

Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, [KMarsh@english.msstate.edu](mailto:KMarsh@english.msstate.edu)

**Stacey Goff Endowed English Scholarship**

### For upper-division English majors:

*Howell H. & Elizabeth S. Gwin Scholarship*

Contact: Dr. Matthew Little, [littmatt@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:littmatt@ra.msstate.edu)

*William H. Magruder Memorial Scholarship*

Contact: Dr. Kelly Marsh, [KMarsh@english.msstate.edu](mailto:KMarsh@english.msstate.edu)

*The Lewis & Betty Nolan Book Award*

Contact: Dr. Peter DeGabriele, [pdegab@english.msstate.edu](mailto:pdegab@english.msstate.edu)

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

*Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award*

Contact: Dr. Catherine Pierce, [cpierce@english.msstate.edu](mailto:cpierce@english.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, giving you more weight in their employment considerations.

## **EN 3333: Internship in English:**

EN 3333 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). Typically, there are paid and unpaid internships, and both types can receive course credit if the student is enrolled in EN 3333 and if the internship adheres to the course parameters for EN 3333. In order to receive course credit, students must take EN 3333 during their internship term and complete the course guidelines along with their internship. (Please contact the Internship Coordinator for your options if your internship occurs during the summer or fall instead of the spring.) The internship course consists of supervised work experience and realistic job training of at least 120 hours in related English areas and 30 hours of reflective coursework during the semester, with evaluations by both instructor and supervisor. Students must receive the permission of the instructor of EN 3333 in order to add the course to their spring schedule.

The benefits of the course EN 3333 include offering a network of support via a community of interns and 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.

## **Independent Internship Information (without course credit):**

English students can, of course, complete internships independent from the Internship course, 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. Please ask the Internship Coordinator for more information.

**For further information, please contact Internship Coordinator L. Abigail Voller at [lav9@english.msstate.edu](mailto:lav9@english.msstate.edu) to set up an appointment.**



# English@Work

English@Work is a Canvas account available to English majors, English minors, and English Secondary Education majors for professional development opportunities, such as information on internships, résumés, job interviews, etc. There is information there for you to peruse and even to practice – for example, if you would like to get feedback on your résumé or cover letter, you can submit it to the English@Work page, and you’ll receive individualized comments and edits in return. If you aren’t sure what you want to do for your career, I can help you explore options, including putting you in contact with people in the prospective fields of your interest.

In addition to the information that is readily available on the Canvas page, English@Work also provides regular in-person and WebEx workshops on professional development topics like the ones listed below, plus more:

- Internships & EN 3333: Internship in English
- Résumés and Curriculum Vitae
- Cover Letters
- Setting up Professional Accounts
- How to Conduct Job Searches
- Interviews & Mock Interviews & Dinner Interviews
- How to do an Elevator Pitch
- How to Negotiate the Job Offer

These workshops are excellent opportunities to meet other majors/minors and learn from each other, learn more about what comes after college, develop important skills and professional behaviors, and learn how to find your future path (or paths!).

You can check out the **English@Work Canvas page** for more information on internships and professional development – the page is available on your Canvas Dashboard.

(Only majors are automatically added to the Canvas page because of ITS factors – if you are an English minor or Secondary Ed major, then email me with your NetID, and I’ll add you to the Canvas page.)

**For further information, please contact Internship Coordinator L. Abigail Voller at [lav9@english.msstate.edu](mailto:lav9@english.msstate.edu) to set up an appointment.**

# English Department Writing and Research 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.

## ***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.

## ***The Wendy Herd Award for Research in Linguistics***

Papers and projects are nominated for this award by Linguistics professors.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH CLUB

# Bully's Bards

A CLUB FOR ALL ENGLISH AND  
SECONDARY ENGLISH EDUCATION  
MAJORS



FRIENDS, BOOKS, PEER REVIEWS,  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MORE!

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR IMPORTANT LINKS AND UPDATES  
REGARDING MEETING TIMES: @BULLYS\_BARDS

## 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](http://www.english.org).

You can find out more about MSU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta by stopping by Dr. DeGabriele's office (Allen 270D), emailing him at [pdegab@english.msstate.edu](mailto: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 60 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>.
- You can call our main location at 662-325-1045 during working hours, 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.

### Locations

### Directions and Information

*For all appointments, whether in person or online, you can schedule for either 30 minutes or 1 hour using our scheduling website, <http://msstate.mywconline.com/>. Walk-in appointments are available and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.*

#### The House at 94 President's Circle (Main Location)

Across the street from Allen Hall, next to the McCarthy Gym parking lot.

#### Mobile in the Library

In Research Instruction and Outreach on the main floor of the Library.

### Online

Once you make an online appointment, log back in to <http://msstate.mywconline.com> five to ten minutes before the start of your appointment. Then, open this appointment and click "Start or Join Online Consultation." This will open your online session and connect you with a writing consultant.

For more information about our Center, the work we do, current contests, updates, and more, visit our main website at <https://www.writingcenter.msstate.edu/> and follow us on Instagram @msstate\_writing. See <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 LITERATURE COURSES BEYOND THOSE USED TO SATISFY ENGLISH MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

We particularly recommend the following:

- *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.

You may count two of your Creative Writing Minor classes toward your English major: one for the non-literature requirement and one for your English elective. The other four classes will count as general electives.

*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](mailto: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.

### 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 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

FL 4233 Linguistics for World Language Teachers

FLS 4633 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

FLS 4643 Spanish Phonetics

#### 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

### RESTRICTION

- 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](mailto: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

# MINOR

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 Minor:**

*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 Minor does not lead to K-12 ESL certification, which is required to teach in the public school system in the U.S. However, the minor can be added to a current or in-progress Mississippi educator's license to obtain an ESL supplemental endorsement.

**Contact Information: Megan Smith, [ms4004@msstate.edu](mailto:ms4004@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. Pay attention to the deadline in the Academic Calendar and in emails from the Registrar's Office to avoid a late fee.

## 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 email or stop by office hours 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 (at least two weeks) 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. *Never* give a professor's contact information to a program you're applying to without asking the professor.

### 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. Students typically choose to waive this right, because it guarantees 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.”

- Steve Strauss. “Why Entrepreneurs Should Hire English Majors.” *USA Today*, July 8, 2016.

“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.”

- David Kalt. “Why I Was Wrong About Liberal-Arts Majors.” *Wall Street Journal*, June 1, 2016.

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. For contact information for the career mentors, ask the professor who taught your EN 1111 class.

The English department has connections to internship opportunities and career development resources; see pp. 18-19 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 Amy Skelton, the Career Center’s coordinator for Arts & Sciences majors, at [askelton@career.msstate.edu](mailto:askelton@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](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 minor 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 the alumni stories on our department website (<https://www.english.msstate.edu/msu-english-alumni-stories>) to see what some recent graduates are currently doing.

# 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 many 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](http://www.ets.org), [www.mba.com](http://www.mba.com), or [www.lsac.org](http://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  
375 Collegeview Street, Suite 12  
662-325-6610  
[testing@saffairs.msstate.edu](mailto:testing@saffairs.msstate.edu)  
<http://www.cbt.msstate.edu/>