



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The English Major

Handbook

2026-2027

“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 advisor during the advising period every semester. Freshmen and sophomores will be advised in the university Center for Advising and will be notified by them about sign-up processes. Juniors and seniors will be advised by English Department faculty advisors and will receive an email when it's time to sign up for advising by calling the English Department at 662-325-3644 or going to Lee 2000. 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.*
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 Degree Works through Banner and keep a record of all courses you have taken on the **Check Sheet on page 12**; 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, organized and labeled in a way that you can find them again later.

How?

Give them informative file names (e.g., not “Essay1”) that make clear which ones are drafts and which are the final versions. Create a folder on your computer and in the cloud for all of your final versions. Make sure to transfer that folder when you get a new computer or switch cloud providers.

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 may want to develop an upper-level paper into an article you submit for **publication in an undergraduate journal**.

Fifth, 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 juniors and seniors will sign up for your **preregistration advising appointments**; 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. 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 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 or on Instagram @englishliaisonmsu.

If you would like to find out about **internship opportunities**, the **internship course**, or the career preparation resources of **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 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 Prof. Becky Hagenston (bhagenston@english.msstate.edu, Lee 2006).

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 2506.

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.

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.

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.

Ted Atkinson	Lee 2010	tatkinson@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Louisiana State University		
U.S. literature and culture; literature and culture of the U.S. South; William Faulkner; and film studies		
Lourdes Cardozo Gaibisso	Lee 2503	lc1811@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Georgia		
TESOL and applied linguistics		
Shalyn Claggett	Lee 2505	src173@msstate.edu
Ph.D. Vanderbilt University		
Nineteenth-century British literature; literary theory		
Peter DeGabriele	Allen 270D	pdegab@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University at Buffalo-SUNY		
Eighteenth-century British literature; the novel; literary and cultural theory		
Lara Dodds	Lee 2304	ldodds@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Brown University		
Renaissance literature; Milton; early modern prose; early modern women's writing, especially Margaret Cavendish; science and literature		
Becky Hagenston	Lee 2006	bhagenston@english.msstate.edu
M.F.A. University of Arizona		
Creative writing: fiction		
Blake Lehman	Lee 2007	sbl158@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles		
Linguistics: phonology, phonetics, field linguistics		
Meg Marquardt	Lee 2008	meg.marquardt@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison		
Composition and rhetoric, science writing, writing across the curriculum		
Kelly Marsh	Lee 2504	kmarsh@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University		
Twentieth- and twenty-first-century global literatures in English; narrative theory		
Elizabeth Miller	Lee 2004	cae47@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Maryland		
Rhetoric and composition; writing theory; rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement		
Olufunke Ogundimu	Lee 2515	ooo70@msstate.edu
PhD. University of Nebraska-Lincoln		
Creative writing: fiction		

Bonnie O'Neill	Lee 2508	boneill@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Washington University		
Early American literature (before 1800); nineteenth-century U.S. literature; cultural studies; literature and public life		
Ginger Pizer	Lee 2305	gpizer@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Texas		
Linguistics: sociolinguistics; linguistics of signed languages and gesture		
Dan Punday	Lee 2005	dpunday@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University		
Narrative theory, contemporary literature, and electronic media		
Donald Shaffer		dshaffer@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Chicago		
American literature, African American literature and history, especially Charles Chesnutt		
Samyak Shertok	Lee 2011	sl2159@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Utah		
Creative writing: poetry		
Megan Smith	Lee 2502	ms4004@msstate.edu
Ph.D. Michigan State University		
Linguistics: second language acquisition, syntax, psycholinguistics		
Andrea Spain	Lee 2506	aspain@english.msstate.edu
Ph.D. University at Buffalo		
Postcolonial literature, world literature, critical theory, film		
Kemeshia Swanson	Allen 269B	klr119@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Alabama		
African American literature, Black feminism		
Dhanashree Thorat	Lee 2310	dt1349@msstate.edu
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 2002	edv34@msstate.edu
Ph.D. University of Wisconsin–Madison		
Renaissance 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)

Oral Communication

Foreign Language I-IV

Math in Your World, Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus

3 Science classes

6 Social Science classes (one must be a Linguistics course)

Creative Discovery (i.e., Fine Arts)

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: Multiethnic 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 distributed among the following three categories:

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 4373 English Lit & the World Before 1800

EN 4383 Digital Ethnic Studies

EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory

EN 4793 Postcolonial Literature and Its Colonial
Precursors

EN 4813 The World Novel Since 1900

Theory, Genre, and Methods

(1 course)

EN 4323 Literary Criticism from Plato to 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

Creative and Professional Studies

All English majors take one of the courses below aimed at developing professional and creative skills in addition to those learned through literary study.

EN 3243 Writing Center Tutor Training

EN 3303 Creative Writing

EN 3313 Writing for the Workplace

EN 3323 Writing Across Difference

EN 3333 Internship in English

EN 3343 Science Writing for the Public

EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry Writing

EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction Writing

EN 4113 Foundations of Tech Comm

EN 4123 Grant Writing

EN 4124 Topics in Film

EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing

EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy

EN 4303 Craft of Poetry

EN 4313 Craft of Fiction

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

A study abroad course on any topic can satisfy this requirement. If you do not study abroad, it is satisfied by any 3000- or 4000-level course in History, Foreign Language, or Philosophy.

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. 26-29 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 outside the English department include

- Pre-Law: <https://www.pspa.msstate.edu/academic-programs/minors-certificates/pre-law-minor>
- 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>

SAMPLE CURRICULUM FOR THE B.A. IN ENGLISH

FRESHMAN YEAR

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

SOPHOMORE YEAR

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

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 ^h	3
EN	xxxx	Creative/Professional EN course	3	EN	4xxx	Literature course in Cultural Geographies ^h	3
		Required Social Science course ^e	3			Required Social Science course ^e	3
		Required Fine Arts course ^d	3			Required Science course ^f	3-4
PHI	xxxx	Required Philosophy course	3			General Elective	3
Total Credit Hours			16	Total Credit Hours			15-16

SENIOR YEAR

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

^a 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.

^b The major requires fourth semester proficiency in a foreign language. Students with previous background are welcome to start at a higher class level.

^c The math requirement is one 3-hour class, which may be Math in Your World, Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus. Students with an ACT Math subscore of 19+ may take Math in Your World, and those with credit for College Algebra or an ACT score of 24+ may take one of the other classes. Students with an ACT Math subscore lower than 19 must take Intermediate Algebra as a prerequisite for further math classes unless you score well on the math placement test offered through the Math Domain.

^d See Arts & Sciences list for approved courses.

^e Six Social Science classes are required. At least one must be a Linguistics (LIN) course. At least two must come from the Arts & Sciences list. No more than two courses per discipline, covering at least four different disciplines.

^f 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.

^g 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.

^h 4000-level literature courses may be taken in any order. See departmental list for courses approved for each category.

ⁱ 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.) _____	_____	_____
Math in Your World (MA 1213), Trigonometry (MA 1323), Statistics (MA 2113), or Calculus (MA 1613) or higher _____	_____	_____
Creative Discovery _____	_____	_____
Social Sciences from at least 4 areas: AN, CRM, GR, LIN, PS (but not PS 1182/1192), PSY, SO, and selected AAS, CO, EC, & GS. At least one LIN. No more than two per area (one CO, EC); at least two from A&S list.		
LIN _____	_____	_____
SS _____	_____	_____
SS _____	_____	_____
SS _____	_____	_____
SS _____	_____	_____
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 & Figures	_____	_____
EN 4 _____ Cultural Geographies	_____	_____
EN 4 _____ Theory, Genre, & Methods	_____	_____
EN 4 _____ Literature Elective	_____	_____
EN 3 _____ or 4 _____ Creative/Professional	_____	_____
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 14.

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. Non-English requirements can be satisfied with a D.
4. You should take EN 3414, Critical Writing and Research, before your first 4000-level literature course.
5. A full-time schedule for financial aid purposes is 12 hours. You need 15-16 hours per semester to graduate in four years without summer classes. Every semester-hour over 16 is charged additional tuition.

A few notes on Degree Works:

This checklist is a duplicate of the Degree Works audit available to you through Banner. This online tool is very useful, but there can be problems with relying on it exclusively, because it is only as good as its programming. For example, it doesn't know what to do with special topics courses, brand new courses, or many transfer courses, so it may show them as not satisfying requirements that they can in fact satisfy. When in doubt, ask your advisor. If something is showing up wrong in your Degree Works audit, 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 requirements

History (any two)

AAS 3013	African American History to 1865
or HI 3013	African American History to 1865
AAS 3023	African American History since 1865
or HI 3023	African American History since 1865
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
HON 1163	The Quest Begins

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	Discovering Archaeology: Past Meets Present
AN 2403	Introduction to the Study of Language
or EN 2403	Introduction to the Study of Language
CO 1223	Introduction to Communication Theory
or CO 1403	Introduction to the Mass Media
DSCI 2013	Data Science Literacy
EC 1033	Economics of Social Issues
or EC 2113	Principles of Macroeconomics
or EC 2123	Principles of Microeconomics
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

Creative Discovery

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
ART 2063	Global Contemporary Art	MU 1173	Music of the Beatles
CO 1503	Introduction to the Theatre	MU 2173	Women in Music
HON 3173	Honors Seminar in Fine Arts	MU 3013	Survey of Western Music History I
MU 1103	African American Music	PE 1323	History and Appreciation of Dance

Natural Sciences ³

AN 1344	Biological Anthropology: The Making of Us
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 1111	Physical Geography Laboratory
GR 1113	Physical Geography
GR 1131	Weather and Climate Laboratory
GR 1133	Weather and Climate
HON 3163	Honors Seminar in Natural Sciences
PH 1011	How Things Work Laboratory
PH 1063	Descriptive Astronomy
PH 1021	The Science of Our World and Beyond Laboratory
PH 1013	How Things Work
PH 1023	The Science of Our World and Beyond
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 1111 English Studies
EN 3343 Science Writing for the Public
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
EN 4111 Portfolios and Reflective Writing
EN 4123 Grant Writing
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
EN 4323 Literary Criticism Plato to Present
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
EN 4363 Global Anglophone Literatures
EN 4373 English Lit & the World Before 1800
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

Fall, odd-numbered years

EN 1111 English Studies
EN 3343 Science Writing for the Public
EN 3903 Intermediate Fiction
EN 4111 Portfolios and Reflective Writing
EN 4123 Grant Writing
EN 4233 Composition Pedagogy
EN 4303 Craft of Poetry
EN 4333 Southern Lit
EN 4353 Critical Theory Since 1900
EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory
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, odd-numbered years

EN 2434 Literature and Film
EN 2443 Science Fiction
EN 3243 Writing Center Tutor Training
EN 3333 Internship in English
EN 3323 Writing Across Difference
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
EN 4113 Foundations of Tech Comm
EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing
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

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 3323 Writing Across Difference
EN 3513 Women and Literature
EN 3803 Intermediate Poetry
EN 4113 Foundations of Tech Comm
EN 4223 Principles of Legal Writing
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 4793 Postcolonial Lit and Precursors
EN 4923 American Novel Since 1900
EN 4953 Form and Theory of Poetry

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. It is only offered in the fall semester.

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 current English majors about their experience with the program and with MSU.
3. We'll hear from former English majors who have experience working in such fields as law, publishing, library science, teaching, and technical writing.
4. 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. It is only offered in the fall semester.

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.

Avoiding and Managing Academic Trouble

Hopefully your progress through the program will go smoothly, but here are some ways to deal with bumps if they occur. See the academic calendar (<https://www.registrar.msstate.edu/calendars/academic-calendar>) for specific deadlines, and always feel free to contact your advisor or Dr. Pizer for help with any of these processes.

Accommodations for Disabilities

If you have a disability of any kind, you are entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://www.drc.msstate.edu/>) and provide documentation of the disability, and they will notify your professors of the accommodations that are due to you.

Tutoring

Free tutoring is available through the Center for Student Success (<https://www.studentsuccess.msstate.edu/>). Many courses have tutors already hired, and other courses can be added at your request. If you are concerned about a class, go ahead and arrange tutoring from the beginning of the semester, and hopefully that will keep you from ever falling behind.

Dropping a class for a W

The last day to drop a class with no record of it on your transcript is the fifth class day of the semester. Between that point and 5 PM on the 36th class day, you may drop a class for a grade of W; this will show on your transcript but not affect your GPA. To do this,

- fill out the add-drop form from the registrar's website (<https://www.registrar.msstate.edu/students>)
- get your advisor's signature (you don't need the instructor's signature to drop, though it's polite to let them know you're leaving)
- bring the form to the 5th floor of Allen Hall to get a signature from the Dean of Arts & Sciences
- bring it to the registrar's office in Garner Hall for processing

Because this process has so many steps, don't leave it until the last minute! If you need to maintain full-time status (12 hours) for financial aid purposes, you may replace the dropped class with a second mini-term class. Do not sign up for a second mini-term class if you don't have to; instead, use your lighter schedule to focus on your other classes. There are rarely classes available in the second mini-term that will satisfy requirements for you beyond elective hours. You will be responsible for the tuition for both the class you drop and any mini-term class you add.

(continued next page)

Incomplete grades

If you have completed most of a course successfully but something outside your control prevents you from completing a large final assignment, it is possible before grades are assigned to ask your professor to give you a grade of Incomplete. It is entirely up to the professor whether to agree. That will give you more time to complete the assignment, after which the professor will enter your appropriate grade. However, if you do not finish the work by the deadline (30 days after your next enrollment), the grade automatically becomes an F; this is unfortunately a common outcome, so think carefully before requesting a grade of Incomplete.

Withdrawing from the semester

At any time until only ten class days remain in the semester, you may withdraw from the university entirely by submitting a withdrawal request through Banner. All of your classes will be listed on your transcript with grades of W, and your GPA will not be affected. Depending on when you withdraw, you may get a partial tuition refund; see the registrar's website for the refund schedule. Withdrawal may affect your financial aid; check with the financial aid office before submitting the withdrawal request.

Academic forgiveness

You may apply for academic forgiveness through Banner for up to 9 hours of courses in which you earned a D or an F. It is best not to use it for any except 3-hour courses; that's the only way you can apply it to three courses. The course and grade will remain on your transcript, but the grade will be marked with *S and will not be calculated in your GPA; the course cannot be used to satisfy any requirements. Academic forgiveness applies *only for academic purposes* (i.e., not for financial aid requirements) and *only internal to MSU* (i.e., other schools that you send your transcript to when transferring or applying for graduate school are unlikely to honor it). Its purpose is to help students who would otherwise be placed on probation, suspension, or dismissal, or who would not achieve the required 2.0 GPA to graduate.

Retroactive withdrawal

In extreme circumstances, there is a procedure for applying to withdraw from a semester retroactively, within one calendar year of the disastrous semester. This procedure is complex, and approval is not guaranteed, so if you need to withdraw, do your very best to do it during the semester instead. However, be aware that the possibility exists, and talk to Dr. Pizer if you need to pursue it.

Stop digging, and build back gradually

If you have had an unfortunate semester, avoid the temptation to pile on extra work in the following semester in an attempt to catch back up quickly. Such attempts most often lead to a deeper hole, a longer delay, and greater expense. Instead, work on repairing the issues behind that semester's academic troubles, and schedule manageable course loads that will allow you to succeed academically and build your GPA back up gradually.

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 “English,” 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.

Applications for English Department scholarships are expected to consist entirely of original work produced by the applicant, claiming nothing as that applicant's original work that has been all or partially generated by AI or copied from the internet, another student, a print resource, or any other source.

For any English major:

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

Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Scholarship

Roger LeMoyne Dabbs Memorial Scholarship

Mildred Freeman Shurlds English Annual Scholarship

Helen W. Skelton Endowed Scholarship

For incoming freshman English majors:

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

Stacey Goff Endowed English Scholarship

For upper-division English majors:

Howell H. & Elizabeth S. Gwin Scholarship

Contact: Dr. Andrea Spain, ASpain@english.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: Prof. Becky Hagenston, bhagenston@english.msstate.edu

Internships

Internships allow you to gain valuable work experience, 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 shows potential employers that you are proactive about your future career path, giving you more weight in their employment considerations.

EN 3333: Internship in English:

EN 3333 offers junior and senior English majors/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 (credit for the Creative/Professional requirement or the English elective). Both paid and unpaid internships can earn 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 course credit options if your internship occurs during the summer or fall instead of the spring.) The internship course consists of 120 hours of supervised work experience and 30 hours of reflective coursework during the semester, with evaluations by both instructor and supervisor.

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 hones students' professional abilities and creates a working writing portfolio to show future employers. Our current interns have had varied experiences that have cultivated their professional abilities and taught them invaluable lessons before entering the work force. Several have been offered jobs based on their internship performance!

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.

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 to set up an appointment.

English@Work

English@Work is a Canvas resource page 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 area(s).

English@Work provides online resources 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 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 readily 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 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 Prof. Becky Hagenston.

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.

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 or calling 662-325-3644.

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 over 40 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 for an account and schedule a face-to-face or online appointment using 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 by 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 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.

Mitchell Memorial Library, Room 2335 (Main Location)

Our main location is in the Research Instruction and Outreach section on the library's main floor. We are located past the Computer Commons and directly across the hall from the Digital Media Center. At this location, we offer face-to-face and online appointments during the day, and in the evening, we offer face-to-face appointments only.

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. Our Online location is open during the evenings, and we have online appointments available at our main location during the day.

For more information about our Center, the work we do, current events, updates, and more, visit our main website at <https://www.writingcenter.msstate.edu/> and follow us on Instagram [@msstate_writing](https://www.instagram.com/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 Creative/Professional requirement and one for your English elective. The other four classes will count as general electives.

The Intermediate and Craft classes have prerequisites and are each offered only once a year (see the course rotation on p. 16). Plan ahead to make sure you can fit in all of your minor classes before graduation!

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 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.

For the English major, LIN courses satisfy social science requirements.

CURRICULUM

The minor requires a minimum of 18 semester hours with a grade of C or above in each course. At least 15 of the 18 hours must be courses that carry the LIN prefix; if a course is cross-listed, you may take any of the cross-listings. You may count up to one elective in a related field from the list at the bottom of the page.

REQUIRED COURSE

LIN/AN/EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics

4-5 ADDITIONAL LIN COURSES

LIN/AN/EN 2403 Introduction to the Study of Language

LIN/EN 4413 History of the English Language

LIN/EN 4443 English Syntax

LIN/EN 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

LIN/EN/PSY 4473 Phonetics

LIN/AN/EN/SO 4623 Language and Culture

LIN/AN/EN/SO 4633 Language and Society

LIN/FL 4233 Linguistics for World Language Teachers

LIN/FLF 4663 Structure and Evolution of the French Language

LIN/FLS 4633 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

LIN/FLS 4643 Spanish Phonetics

any other LIN course

0-1 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

LIN/EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL and LIN/EN 4453 Methods in TESOL do not 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

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:

- LIN/EN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics
- LIN/EN 4463 Studies in Second Language Acquisition

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

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

Two courses in language teaching methodology:

- LIN/EN 4453 Methods in TESOL
- LIN/EN 4433 Approaches to TESOL

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
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 12-13.

Grades and GPA:

You need at least a C in all English courses at the 2000 level and above. Non-English requirements may be satisfied with Ds. Both your overall GPA and your MSU GPA will need to be at least 2.0.

Application for Graduation:

During your final semester at MSU, you will apply for your degree 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 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. 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

The skills in research, writing, and critical thinking that you develop as an English major are applicable to a wide variety of careers; in fact, *Forbes* recently ranked English as the most versatile college major (Conley-Hampton, 2026). 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:

- Over 70 **MSU English alumni** have written their widely varied career stories to be posted on the department website at <https://www.english.msstate.edu/msu-english-alumni-stories>. Take a look to see where they've gone professionally with an English major.
- 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. See information about the current career mentors here: <https://www.english.msstate.edu/career-mentors>. 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. 20-21 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.

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 print or digital media. 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 job based on another kind of writing. 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/concentrations>) or a minor in marketing through the College of Business (<https://www.business.msstate.edu/academics/minors>).

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 the media, 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, consider pursuing a pre-law minor; see the curriculum here: <https://www.pspa.msstate.edu/academic-programs/minors-certificates/pre-law-minor>.

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. 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. Look through the alumni stories on the department website and visit the career center to get an idea of more options. Also consider identifying a one- or two-year goal for your time immediately after graduation and looking for a job with that goal in mind, while staying open to a variety of long-term possibilities. Many people's careers develop in fulfilling directions that they would never have predicted!

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, www.mba.com, or www.lsac.org offer preparation books for each exam, and students can purchase other preparation guides from a 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
<http://www.cbt.msstate.edu/>

