

UMSL English

Why UMSL?

The Department of English at University of Missouri–St. Louis has a faculty of published, award-winning creative writers and scholars with international reputations for their excellence in literary studies, critical theory, poetry, and fiction.

The Department of English has a curriculum, which allows students to study a variety of courses, ranging from literary studies, critical theory, film and drama to women’s studies, cultural studies, creative writing and journalism and affords opportunities for intensive, wide-ranging humanist knowledge and inquiry in preparation for professional writing, teacher certification, graduate study, or the pursuit of other professions - such as law - that would benefit by extensive training in literature, language and critical analysis.

The Department of English has a Writing Certificate Program, providing internships with St. Louis-based companies with practical experience that can lead to job opportunities.

The Department of English has an in-house literary magazine, Litmag, to publish original work by University of Missouri–St. Louis students. Students also serve on Litmag’s editorial board to gain knowledge of the publishing trade.

The Department of English has financial assistance for upper-classmen demonstrating excellence in their academic studies.

Career Outlook

In addition to traditional employment as teachers at the primary, secondary and community-college levels, recent University of Missouri–St. Louis graduates in English are working in journalism, editing, advertising, public relations and other fields that place a premium upon creation and interpretation of the written word. Numerous recent English majors have successfully entered English PhD programs and law schools.

Undergraduate Studies

Degrees and Areas of Concentration

The Department of English offers or participates in the offering of the BA in English, the BA in English with certification for secondary teaching and the B.S. in secondary education with an emphasis area in English. The Department also offers a minor in English. Additionally, students with any major in the University may

earn a Certificate in Writing so that they may demonstrate evidence of training in creative, journalistic, or technical writing.

The Department also has graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts degree and the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. For information on the graduate programs, please contact the Department.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a total number of 120 hours with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 and a minimum GPA of 2.0 in their English courses.

I. General Education Courses

Students must meet the general education requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. These requirements have been revised.

Students entering UMSL as of August 2002 with fewer than 24 transferable semester hours will take a 42 semester-hour block of courses covering “skill goals” and “knowledge goals.” This program will include communication, mathematics, natural science, social science and students who transfer more than 24 semester hours of credit) will meet the old general education requirements. Students must take one course in American history and in American government to fulfill either old or new general education programs.

The BA degree has two other general requirements:

1. **Cultural Diversity** - one course that emphasizes Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Latin American, Pacific aboriginal, Native American or comparable cultures. This course may also satisfy one of the course requirements in humanities or social sciences. See the Bulletin for specific courses.
2. **Foreign Language** - 13 hours or the equivalent in proficiency in one foreign language.

II. English Courses

English majors must complete at least 39 but no more than 48 hours of English coursework exclusive of ENG 1100, 1110 and 3090. They may exceed the 48-hour maximum only if they exceed the required 120 total hours by the same number. Majors must complete at least 18 graded (i.e., not satisfactory/unsatisfactory) hours in English courses at the 3000-level or above with a grade point average of 2.0 or better in these courses.

Following is a checklist for the BA in English:

A. Junior-level course in Composition

ENG 3090, Practical Criticism: Writing About Literature

B. Five Survey Courses in Literature

ENG 2310, English Literature to 1790

ENG 2320, English Literature since 1790

ENG 2710, American Literature to 1865

ENG 2720, American Literature since 1865

Plus one of the following:

ENG 2280, Contemporary World in Literature

ENG 2330, Introduction to Poetry

ENG 2340, Introduction to Drama

ENG 2350, Introduction to Fiction

ENG 2510, World Literature to 1650

ENG 2520, World Literature since 1650

C. Traditional Grammar

ENG 2810, Traditional Grammar

D. Upper Division Courses

- a. Six courses (18 hours) are required at the 4000-level. Students majoring in English must take all 18 hours in residence and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better, or receive special consent of the department
- b. Within the six courses listed above, three courses must fulfill distribution requirements: one course (3 hours) in British literature before 1790, one course (3 hours) in British literature after 1790 and one course (3 hours) in American literature.
- c. If a student elects to pursue an emphasis area (EA) or areas, 3 courses (9 hours) at the 3000/4000-level are required within each emphasis area (EA). Only one of these courses (3 hours) may be at the 3000-level.
- d. A student may not use the same course to satisfy both a distribution requirement and an emphasis area (EA).

III. Three Distribution Requirements

British Literature before 1790 (choose one)

ENG 4260, Chaucer

ENG 4270, Medieval English Literature

ENG 4320, Elizabethan Poetry and Prose

ENG 4340, Early Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose

ENG 4350, Milton

ENG 4360, Tudor and Stuart Drama

ENG 4370, Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances

ENG 4380, Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories

ENG 4420, Age of Dryden and Pope

ENG 4450, The Eighteenth-Century English Novel

ENG 4931, English Women Writers, 1300-1750

British Literature after 1790 (choose one)

ENG 4510, Early Romantic Poetry and Prose

ENG 4520, Later Romantic Poetry and Prose
ENG 4540, The Nineteenth-Century English Novel
ENG 4550, Novels into Film: The Nineteenth Century
ENG 4560, Prose and Poetry of the Victorian Period
ENG 4580, Literature of the Late Nineteenth and Early

Twentieth Centuries

ENG 4750, Modern British Fiction
ENG 4934, Austen and the Brontës
ENG 4935, Women Heroes and Romantic Tales

American Literature (choose one)

ENG 4610, Selected Major American Writers I
ENG 4620, Selected Major American Writers II
ENG 4640, American Fiction to World War I
ENG 4650, Modern American Fiction
ENG 4740, Poetry Since World War II

IV. Optional Emphasis Areas

British Literature Emphasis Area:

ENG 4260, Chaucer
ENG 4270, Medieval English Literature
ENG 4320, Elizabethan Poetry and Prose
ENG 4340, Early Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose
ENG 4350, Milton
ENG 4360, Tudor and Stuart Drama
ENG 4370, Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances
ENG 4380, Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories
ENG 4420, Age of Dryden and Pope
ENG 4450, The Eighteenth-Century English Novel
ENG 4510, Early Romantic Poetry and Prose
ENG 4520, Later Romantic Poetry and Prose
ENG 4540, The Nineteenth-Century English Novel
ENG 4550, Novels into Film: The Nineteenth Century
ENG 4560, Prose and Poetry of the Victorian Period
ENG 4580, Literature of the Late Nineteenth and Early

Twentieth Centuries

ENG 4750, Modern British Fiction
ENG *4770, Modern Poetry (also American EA)
ENG *4930, Studies in Gender and Literature (also Women/Gender EA)
ENG 4931, English Women Writers, 1300-1750
ENG *4932, Female Gothic (also Women/Gender EA)
ENG 4935, Women Heroes and Romantic Tales
ENG *4936, Tales of the Islamic East (also Ethnic/World EA)
ENG 4950, Special Topics in Literature (with at least 50% British Emphasis)

American Literature Emphasis Area:

- ENG *4060, Adolescent Literature (also Ethnic/World EA)
- ENG 4610, Selected Major American Writers I
- ENG 4620, Selected Major American Writers II
- ENG *4630, African American Literature prior to 1900 (also Ethnic/World EA)
- ENG 4640, American Fiction to World War I
- ENG 4650, Modern American Fiction
- ENG 4740, Poetry since World War II
- ENG *4770, Modern Poetry (also British EA)
- ENG *4910, Studies in African/African American Lit., Criticism, & Diaspora
(also Ethnic/World EA)
- ENG *4937, Irish & Irish-American Women Writers (also Women/Gender EA)
- ENG *4938, American Women Poets of 20th/21st Centuries (also Women/Gender EA)
- ENG 4950, Special Topics in Literature (with at least 50% American emphasis)

Ethnic and World Literature Emphasis Area:

- ENG *4060, Adolescent Literature (also American EA)
- ENG *4630, African American Literature prior to 1900 (also American EA)
- ENG 4760, Modern Drama
- ENG *4910, Studies in African/African American Literature, Criticism, & Diaspora
(also American EA)
- ENG 4920, Major Works of European Fiction
- ENG *4933, Female Novel of Development (also Women/Gender EA)
- ENG *4936 Tales of the Islamic East (also British EA)
- ENG 4950, Special Topics in Literature (with at least 50% Ethnic/World emphasis)

Women's and Gender Studies Emphasis Area:

- ENG 3800, Topics in Women and Literature
- ENG *4930, Studies in Gender and Literature (also British EA)
- ENG *4932, Female Gothic (also British EA)
- ENG *4933, Female Novel of Development (also Ethnic/World EA)
- ENG 4934, Austen and the Brontës
- ENG *4937 Irish & Irish-American Women Writers (also American EA)
- ENG *4938, American Women Poets of the 20th/21st Centuries (also American EA)

Language and Writing Emphasis Area:

- ENG 3140, News Writing
- ENG 3150, Feature Writing
- ENG 3160, Writing in the Sciences
- ENG 3180, Reporting
- ENG 3280, Public Relations Writing
- ENG 4160, Special Topics in Writing (with at least 50% writing studies emphasis)
- ENG *4800, Linguistics (also Theory/Criticism EA)
- ENG 4810, English Grammar
- ENG 4820, History of the English Language

ENG 4850, Topics in Teaching of Writing
ENG 4860, Editing
ENG 4870, Advanced Business & Technical Writing
ENG 4880, Writing for Teachers

Creative Writing Emphasis Area:

ENG 3030, Poetry Writing Workshop: Lyric and Form
ENG 3040, Fiction Writing Workshop: Narrative Techniques
ENG 4130, Advanced Poetry Writing Workshop
ENG 4140, Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop
ENG 4160, Special Topics in Writing (with at least 50% creative writing emphasis)
ENG 4895, Editing Litmag

Theory and Criticism Emphasis Area:

ENG 4030, Contemporary Critical Theory
ENG 4050, Forms and Modes of Poetry
ENG 4080, Narrative, Cognition and Emotion
ENG 4160, Special Topics in Writing (with at least 50% theory/ criticism emphasis)
ENG *4800, Linguistics (also Language/Writing EA)

Undergraduate Studies

Degrees and Areas of Concentration

Bachelor of Arts in English with Secondary Certification

The BA in English with secondary certification allows students to graduate with two bachelor's degrees, a BA in English and a B.S. in Secondary Education. In order to fulfill the requirements of both the BA and a B.S. degree, students need to:

1. Take 13 hours of foreign language may be met by courses counted for the major.
2. Take a 3-hour cultural diversity course.
3. Fulfill the requirements for the English department's upper-level literature courses.

Students seeking to double major are encouraged to seek advising in both the English department and the College of Education.

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with an Emphasis in English

English content courses for students seeking to teach English in secondary schools parallel the requirements for the English major. Specific requirements include:

1. Twelve hours in composition and rhetoric.
ENG 1100, Freshman Composition
ENG 3090, Practical Criticism: Writing About Literature
ENG/SEC ED 4880, Writing for Teachers
An elective course in writing including creative writing, journalism and business writing.

2. Five survey courses in literature.
 ENG 2310, English Literature I
 ENG 2320, English Literature II
 ENG 2710, American Literature I
 ENG 2720, American Literature II
 An additional survey-level courses (ENG 2280, ENG 2330, ENG 2340, ENG 2350, ENG 2510,
 OR ENG 2520)
3. Three upper-level literature electives.
 ENG 4060, Adolescent Literature
 ENG 4370 or ENG 4380, Shakespeare, is highly recommended.
 An additional upper-level literature elective.
4. Three courses in the study of the English language ENG 2810, Traditional Grammar,
 or pass a test in basic grammar.
 ENG 4810, English Grammar
 ENG 4800, Linguistics OR ENG 4820, History of the English Language
5. ENG/SEC ED 4885, The Curriculum and Methods of Teaching English, must be taken
 concurrently with SEC ED 4989, Professional Internship. These requirements follow successful
 completion of Level I and Level II courses in Education.
6. ENG/SEC ED 4888, English Teaching Seminar, must be taken concurrently with SEC ED 4990,
 Secondary Student Teaching.

Core Level I and Level II core professional education courses are also required. Prospective English teachers should also seek advising in the Teacher Certification and Advising Office (155 Marillac). Candidates for certification must meet the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) requirement of a 2.5 GPA in all professional education and content-area courses.

Minor in English

A student may minor in English by taking at least 18 hours of English courses, exclusive of ENG 1100 and ENG 1110. ENG 3090 is required and 12 of the 18 hours must be in courses at the 3000- and 4000-level. Every student taking a minor in English must consult with an advisor in the English department in order to ensure a coherent program of studies. The GPA in courses for the minor must be 2.0 or better. At least nine of the 18 hours must be taken in residence at UMSL.

No more than three hours taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis may be counted toward the 18-hour minimum.

Certificate Programs in Writing

When the student has completed requirements for the certificate, the coordinator will notify the university registrar and the college from which the student will graduate. Upon the student's graduation, completion of the Certificate in Writing will be noted on the official transcript and a certificate will be mailed to the student's residence. Students who have graduated before completing the Certificate in Writing will receive the certificate in the mail and will have certificate information entered on their official transcripts upon completion of requirements.

Professional Writing Certificate

Students earn the Professional Writing Certificate by completing 18 hours in selected writing courses with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Twelve of the 18 hours must be taken at UMSL. Courses may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. For a complete list of courses in the Professional Writing Certificate, please consult the Department of English website.

Technical Writing Certificate

The Technical Writing Certificate provides a more career specific strategy for students enrolled in the Writing Certificate program. The technical writing emphasis is composed of three required courses:

- ENG 3130, Technical Writing
- ENG 4860, Editing (Prerequisite ENG 2810)
- ENG 4870, Advanced Business and Technical Writing
- OR ENG 4890, Independent Writing Project

In addition, students take three electives for a total of 18 hours. For a complete list of courses in the Technical Writing Emphasis, please consult the Department of English Website.

Creative Writing Certificate

Students earn the Creative Writing Certificate by completing 18 hours in selected writing courses with a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The creative writing emphasis focuses the students' efforts toward producing original fiction or poetry and can include endeavors such as writing creative nonfiction, editing, feature writing and copywriting. The specific requirements for the Creative Writing Emphasis are listed below.

Courses for the certificate should be chosen with the guidance of the Writing Certificate Coordinator. If the student elects to complete ENG 4890 as one of the courses for the certificate, he or she should schedule a meeting with the coordinator to make arrangements for the internship.

To receive this certificate, the student must take 18 hours chosen from the courses listed in the Department of English website. Students must take at least two of the following: 3030, 3040, 4130, 4140, 4895, 4890 and at least one must be a 4000-level course. For a complete list of courses in the Creative Writing Certificate, please consult the Department of English website.