With nearly 80 full-time faculty and hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students, the Department of English is a vibrant and energetic team of teachers, scholars, researchers, and writers. In addition to the BA in English, we offer minors in creative writing, film studies, and linguistics, as well as certificates in professional communication and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).

Why Study English?

English majors hone the writing, reading, speaking, and critical thinking skills that are essential for life beyond the university. Rather than providing a single, linear career path, the English major gives graduates the flexibility to compete in a rapidly-changing economy and to adapt to working with emerging technologies and new media.

Employers want Liberal Arts majors

Employers frequently cite good communication, writing, and research skills as top criteria when looking to hire new employees.¹ In a recent MetLife survey, over 300 Fortune 1000 Executives rated skills like critical thinking and the ability to write clearly and persuasively more highly than higher-level knowledge in science and math.² A degree in English will help you develop these skills and prepare you for life after college – Go English!

What can you do with an English degree?

Our graduates have gone on to work or obtain advanced degrees in…

✓ Private Sector Jobs ✓ Editing and Publishing ✓ Counseling ✓ MBA Programs
✓ Law School ✓ Higher Education ✓ K-12 Teaching ✓ User Experience
✓ Health Care ✓ Grant writing and Fundraising ✓ Graduate School ✓ Social Media
✓ Journalism ✓ Library and Information Science ✓ Content Design

…and many more!

Undergraduate Majors, Minors, and Certificates

Bachelor of Arts in English

As an English major at East Carolina University, you’ll read some of the best works of literature ever written and explore both the classics and the cutting-edge. You’ll take four core classes, which will give you a solid foundation of reading, writing, and analytical skills, and you’ll take eight electives. You’ll receive personalized, one-on-one advising from a faculty member who knows you and your interests. You’ll have the flexibility to choose courses from among the range of fields that make up English today: literature, creative writing, multicultural and transnational literature, technical and professional communication, linguistics, rhetoric and composition, folklore, and film studies.

English Minor
The minor in English is very flexible and allows students to tailor their studies around specific interests. It allows you to take courses in areas like literature, creative writing, linguistics, film studies, and technical writing. Minoring in English is a great way to sample the many types of courses the department offers, and it is easy to transition to an English major if you choose!

Creative Writing Minor
The minor in Creative Writing provides a solid background in appreciating and writing original creative work in four principal genres: fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and play/scriptwriting. The minor also incorporates the study of literature and other disciplines to provide students with the foundations needed to become successful and resourceful readers, intellectuals in various disciplines, and creative writers. Students learn how to read closely as writers and to engage successfully in the practice of literary writing.

Linguistics Minor
Linguistics is the scientific study of language, of the common properties shared by all languages, and of the functions of language in human life and society. The minor in linguistics provides students with an opportunity to study the background of linguistic theory, the applications of language and its theory in the learning and teaching of second or foreign languages, and the social and cultural uses of language in society and communication. The courses are designed to help students have a better understanding of how human communication takes place in an ever more globalized society, with greater encounters with different languages.

Film Studies Minor
The minor in film studies provides students with an opportunity to study the history, theory, criticism, cultural uses, aesthetics, and production practices of cinema. The courses are designed to help students meet the new challenges they will encounter as citizens and workers in the information age and to learn how to analyze and engage critically with the visual media that has become a fixture of contemporary life. This curriculum complements a wide range of liberal arts majors by teaching students textual analysis, critical thinking, and writing skills.

Business and Technical Communication Certificate
The certificate in Business and Technical Communication provides students with opportunities to develop analytical and practical skills in planning, writing, designing, editing, and managing a range of professional texts for print and online publication. Courses in the certificate provide students opportunities to develop writing strategies for the digital age. Internships and course-related service learning opportunities provide resume-building experiences.

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate
The undergraduate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is designed for students who wish to further their education in the field of teaching English to speakers of other languages. The certificate helps prepare professionals planning to teach English as a second language (ESL) in the US or English as a foreign language (EFL) overseas.

For more information, visit our website:

www.ecu.edu/english