



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW MEXICO

Handbook for Undergraduate English Majors
Department of English Language & Literature
University of New Mexico

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Welcome New Majors!

Our faculty and staff serve the diverse needs of students through classes in American Literary Studies, British and Irish Literary Studies, Medieval Studies, Creative and Professional Writing as well as Rhetoric and Writing. We encourage our students to read widely, to understand and enjoy what they read, and to express their ideas clearly, whether it be orally or on the page/screen.

Our faculty shares the conviction that reading literature is a humanizing activity, one that broadens our perspective and nurtures tolerance. Whereas earlier generations sought out a liberal arts education simply to cultivate their minds and enlarge their outlook, today's global culture demands that we communicate widely, and often with people from other cultures and backgrounds. We are called upon to express ourselves daily and most often via the written word. It matters not a jot whether our job title includes the word *writer* because, whatever else we do, we will also be sitting in front of a computer screen spinning out sentences. For these reasons and others, our faculty believes that the English major is more relevant today than ever before.

Happily, this is a flexible time for the undergraduate declaring a major in English at the University of New Mexico. Our BA in English Studies is designed to teach both skills and content. The degree plan is as flexible as it is expansive.

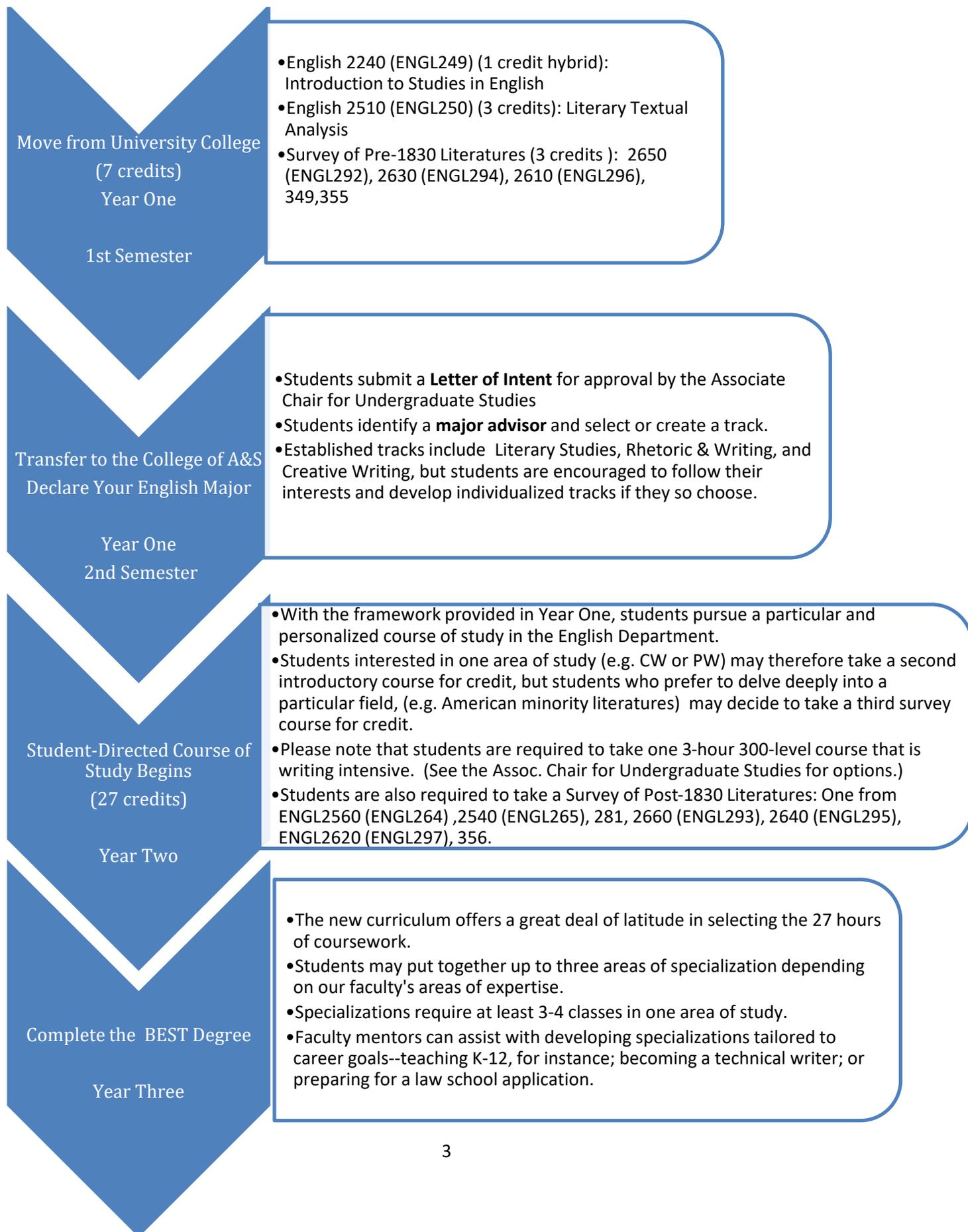
Upon declaring the major, all students take English 2240 (ENGL249), a one-credit introduction to English Studies. Faculty from around the Department offer mini-lectures on their specialties and share their passion for medieval literature, say, or the writing of poetry. In this way, students become acquainted with both the fields of study and with the members of our department who practice them. Our introductory class concludes with the writing of a letter of intent, wherein students identify their interests and map out a provisional degree plan.

If you have additional questions after reviewing this handbook, please contact me at dthiel@unm.edu or by phone, at 505-277-6347 (email preferred). You may also want to peruse our website at <https://english.unm.edu/>.

All Best,

Diane Thiel
Professor of English
Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies

An Overview of the Bachelors in English Studies or BEST



The Bachelor of Arts in English Studies

Prerequisites

A student must have credit for English 1110 (ENGL110) or its equivalent before registering for 102 and credit for English 1120 (ENGL120) before registering for English 2210 (ENGL219), English 2120 (ENGL220), or any course numbered 2510 (ENGL250) or above, with the exception of 2650 (ENGL292), 2660 (ENGL293), and 320.

For enrollment in English 250 (ENGL2510) or literature surveys English 2560 (ENGL264), 2540 (ENGL265), and 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640 (ENGL294-297), students must have *successfully completed* either English 1120 (ENGL120) or the Writing Proficiency Portfolio. There are no prerequisites for English 1410 (ENGL150), other literature courses numbered under 250, and English 2650 (ENGL292) and 2660 (ENGL293) and 320. At least one lower-division course in literature is required for admission to a literature course numbered above 300.

All majors should complete English 2510 (ENGL250) before enrolling in upper-division courses. Please note that a few courses have special prerequisites listed after the course descriptions.

Major Study Requirements (34 Hours)

The English major “BEST,” or Bachelors in English Studies, is based upon the following:

The BA in English Studies is designed to teach both skills and content. Students acquire critical and creative thinking skills as they read, research, and write about texts that depict humanity across various time periods, places, and cultures. Students need not study a predetermined body of texts (i.e., no one country, period, or author is privileged over others.) Because ours is the English Department of the University of New Mexico, students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of classes, conferences, and presentations that feature the Southwest. At the same time, students benefit from studying the movements, writers, and texts that have shaped traditional and emerging canons of English literature and language.

STEP 1 allows you to identify your interests, take possession of your education, and be proactive in planning your course of study.

- English 2240 (ENGL249): Introduction to Studies in English (1 Credit)
Students must submit a **letter of intent** for approval by the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies. Though the letter need not be lengthy, students are expected to convey in their letters a prospective course of study as well as a sense of how the degree will support their future goals. Students are not be required to list, let alone to adhere to, a specific set of courses.

- In order to assist students in the composition of their letters, each of the field groups (Creative Writing, Rhetoric and Writing, American Literary Studies, British/Irish Literary Studies) have prepared **suggested tracks** within their areas of expertise. These suggested courses of study are designed, as well, to address questions about prerequisites and advisement for different possible post-graduate careers/study.

STEP 2 provides a foundation for additional coursework and offers students a chance to solidify their writing, reading, and research skills.

- English 2510 (ENGL250): Literary Textual Analysis (3 credits)
- Survey of Pre-1830 Literatures ENGL2650 (ENGL292), 2630 (ENGL294), 2610 (ENGL296), 349, 355 (3 Credits)

STEP 3: Student-Directed Course of Study (24 hours), including one Three Hour Intensive Writing Course

Students are required to take **eight (8) courses*** in the English department. **No more than two (2) of these classes may be 200-level courses**, thus allowing, for example, students who are interested in more than one area of study (e.g., CW and PW) to take a second introductory course for credit, or students who wish to delve deeply into a particular field (e.g., American minority literatures) to take a third survey course for credit. Additionally, students are required to complete a survey of Post-1830 Literatures ENGL2560 (ENGL264), 2540 (ENGL265), 281, 2660 (ENGL293), 2640 (ENGL295), ENGL2620 (ENGL297), or 356.

****The handbook includes suggested tracks in various subfields as well as areas of faculty expertise.**

At least three (3) of these courses must be 400-level classes and may include the Honors Capstone Course (English 412) but not the independent studies associated with honors (English 497 and 499). Neither English 497 nor English 499 will count toward the 24 student-directed-course of study credit hours, but may be taken as additional credit hours.

During Step 3 students are **required to take one 3-hour 300-level course that is writing intensive**. Students may choose from the following courses to fulfill this requirement: English 320 or any course approved by the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies as writing intensive.

The new curriculum gives majors a great deal of latitude in choosing their 24 hours of course work. You may put together 24 hours of course through a smorgasbord method—a bit of this and a bit of that. Or majors may put together up to 3 areas of specialization based on our faculty's areas of expertise or on a combination of the two (some smorgasbord and 1-2 specializations. To specialize, take at least 3-4 classes in a particular area. You are encouraged to consult a faculty mentor, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Study, or our department adviser to construct an individualized set of courses based on your career goals.

Areas of Faculty Expertise Organized by Subfield

Literary Studies
The literature program consists of American Literary Studies (ALS) and British/Irish Literary Studies (BILS). They have sub-areas of expertise, from which you can choose your own specializations. Also see the literature program faculty areas of expertise:
American Literary Studies (ALS)
American literary studies in the UNM Department of English language and literature focuses on nineteenth and twentieth century American literatures, with special areas of strength that include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nineteenth-Century Literary and Cultural History • Modernism and Postmodernism • Chicana/o, Native American, and Southwestern Literary and Cultural Studies • Poetry, Poetics, and Avant-Garde Writing • African American Literature
British/Irish Literary Studies (BILS)
This group focuses on 5 areas of specialty: Medieval (which has its own program on the graduate level), Early Modern (Renaissance), British/Irish Eighteenth-Nineteenth Century (BIEN), and Modern/Contemporary/Postcolonial.

Literary Periods We Specialize In	
Old and Middle English Literature/Language	Davis-Secord, Obermeier, Otaño-Gracia
Old English	Davis-Secord
Middle English	Obermeier, Otaño-Gracia, Davis-Secord
Early Modern English Literature (Renaissance)	Nocentelli, Greenberg
Georgian Literature	Woodward
British Romanticism	
19 th c. American/19 th c. British/Irish	Alemán, Wichelns, Harrison, Houston, Haynie
19 th c. American	Alemán, Coleman, Wichelns
British-Irish Eighteenth/Nineteenth Century Studies (BIENS)	Houston, Haynie, Woodward
Victorian	Houston, Haynie
20 th and 21 st century American literature	Costantino, Matthews, Hernández

Transatlantic modernism	Hofer
American Postmodernism	Higgins
Postcolonial literature	Wallace, Jussawalla

Literature Studies: Global/Local/Race/Ethnicity/ Empire/Colonial and Postcolonial/Encounter/Borders	
African American Literature	Coleman, Matthews
Asian-American Literature	Shigekuni
Chicano/a Literature	Alemán, Vizcaino-Alemán, Costantino, Hernández
Native American Lit	Hernandez, Sarah
Postcolonial	Jussawalla, Wallace
Southwestern Literary & Cultural Studies	Alemán, Dunaway, Vizcaino-Alemán
Race/Ethnicity Literature	Alemán, Coleman, Jussawalla, Matthews, Nocentelli, Shigekuni, Wallace, Vizcaino-Alemán, Costantino, Hernández

Literary Studies: Faculty Expertise in Women/Gender/Sexuality
Houston, Nocentelli, Obermeier, Wallace, Wichelns, Woodward, Hernández

Literary Studies: Faculty Expertise in Genre	
Early modern theatre/drama/Shakespeare:	Greenberg
Film analysis	Higgins, Costantino
Literary theory	Alemán, Wichelns, Jussawalla
Novel	Haynie, Houston, Hunt, Woodward, Warner
Poetry/poetics	Hofer

Literary Studies: Faculty Expertise in Theory	
Film Theory	Higgins, Costantino
Literary Theory	Alemán, Jussawalla, Wichelns

Creative Writing Faculty Expertise in Genres
The Creative Writing courses need to be taken in sequence, so keep that in mind if you plan on taking more than one course in the subfield. If you plan on making Creative Writing a

specialization, please see the track included in the handbook. See as well the faculty expertise in Creative Writing.	
Creative Nonfiction:	Chavez, Clark, Dunaway, Martin, Thiel
Fiction/Novel:	Martin, Mueller, Shigekuni, Warner
Narrative Theory/Theory of Novel:	Martin, Mueller, Warner
Poetry:	Chavez, Thiel
Professional Wtg/Literary Journalism:	Newmark, Benz

Rhetoric & Writing/Professional Writing	
The Rhetoric & Writing/Professional Writing Program has several options for specialization: Rhetoric, Professional Writing/Technical Writing, Professional Writing/Writing for the Public. If you are interested in one of these areas, consult a faculty mentor in your field of interest:	
Stephen Benz:	Essay as a genre/Travel writing and literature
Andrew Bourelle:	Composition, Rhetoric, Professional Writing
Tiffany Bourelle:	Composition, Rhetoric, Technical and Professional Writing, Multimodal Composition, Online Education Theory and Pedagogy
Bee Chamcharatsri	
Bethany Davila:	Composition Studies, Writing Program Administration, Discourse Analysis, Qualitative Research
David Dunaway:	Creative Non-fiction/Southwest studies
Chris Elder:	Writing Program Administration, Composition Studies, Multi-lingual Writers (ESL)
Michelle Kells:	Mexican American Civil Rights Rhetoric/Writing Across the Curriculum
Monica Kowal:	Curriculum design, Instructional design, Assessment, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design, Service-learning Theory and Practice, Institutionalization and Sustainability of Community Engagement, Professional/Business writing, Journalism
Chuck Paine:	Rhetoric and Comp Writing Program Administration

Frank and Ernest



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Suggested Tracks Organized by Subfield

BRITISH 18TH- and 19TH-CENTURY LITERATURE and CULTURE

This track is designed for students with interest in British 18th- and 19th-century literature and culture. Featured authors include Jane Austen, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Charlotte Brontë. The classes below may be used as simply a fascinating course of study, or as a solid foundation for those interested in going into graduate study.

Foundational Courses

English 355. Survey of Enlightenment

English 356. The Nineteenth Century

Courses of Special Interest

English 315. 19th century British Women Writers

English 360. Jane Austen Goes to the Movies

English 360. The Brontes

English 360 or 388. Dickens and Film

English 456. Studies in British Romanticism

English 457. Victorian Survey (online and face to face)

English 455. Gothic Imaginings in the Later 18th Century

English 455. Women Writers: Fictions of Seduction, Rape & Courtship 1730-1820

English 480. Social Problems in Nineteenth-Century Literature

English 486. Realism and Sensation in Victorian Fiction

American Literary History: From Origins to Innovation

Foundational Courses

English 2610 (ENGL296). American Literature I

English 2620 (ENGL297). American Literature II

English 2670 (ENGL 266) African American Literature

Courses of Special Interest

English 2560 (ENGL264). Introduction to Native American Literature

English 2540 (ENGL265). Introduction to Chicana/o Literature

English 381. African American Literature II

English 460. Early American Literature

English 461. American Romanticism

English 462. American Realism and Naturalism

English 463. Modern American Literature

English 464. Advanced Studies in Native Literatures and Rhetoric

English 465. Chicano/a Literatures

English 466. African American Literature

English 470. Modernist Literature

English 472. Contemporary Literature

English 473. Postmodernism

MEDIEVAL LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE TRACK

This track is designed for students with interest in medieval English literature, including Beowulf, Chaucer, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, and many other texts and authors. The classes listed below offer a fascinating course of study for students who simply love the Middle Ages and provide a solid foundation for students interested in attending graduate school for Medieval Studies.

The Foundational Courses immerse students in the most important languages and medieval texts, while the Important Courses provide larger medieval context and introductions to other, important works. The Related Courses expand the contextual view and give an introduction to broad paradigms useful in studying medieval literature.

Foundational Courses

ENGL 348. Medieval Culture

ENGL 351. Chaucer

ENGL 447. Old English

ENGL 448. Beowulf and Other Topics
ENGL 449. Middle English Language
ENGL 450. Middle English Literature
Important Courses
ENGL 2996. (ENGL 211, 248, 287) Topics in Popular Medieval Literature and Studies
ENGL 2630 (ENGL294). Survey of Earlier English Literature (new title is British Literature I)
ENGL 306. Arthurian Legend and Romance
ENGL 347. Viking Mythology
ENGL 349. From Beowulf to Arthur
ENGL 350. Medieval Tales of Wonder
ENGL 445. History of the English Language
ENGL 451. Topics in Medieval Studies
Related Courses
ENGL 2650 (ENGL292). World Literatures: Ancient World through the 16th Century
ENGL 304. The Bible as Literature
ENGL 335. Topics in French Literature and Culture in Translation (when appropriate)
ENGL 336. Topics in German Literature and Culture in Translation (when appropriate)
ENGL 337. Topics in Italian Literature and Culture in Translation (when appropriate)

Creative Writing Track	
Foundational Courses:	
12 hours in creative writing made up of:	
2310 (ENGL224) (which is a prerequisite for all upper level creative writing courses)	
12 other units of creative writing with at least two courses at the 400 level.	
**We recommend that students not take more than one creative writing course per semester.	
Recommended Literature Courses:	
420 Blue Mesa Review	
487 – Genre Studies	
A broad base of courses in literature with some possibilities: 351, 352/353, 364, 458, 463, 465/466, 472.	
The UNM Catalog details many other possible choices	
Recommended Professional Writing Courses:	
2110 (ENGL240) – Traditional Grammar	
320, 415, 417, 445 are possibilities, with other choices found in the UNM Catalog	

The American Southwest: Literature, Film, and Expressive Culture of the Region

This track is designed for students interested in studying the literatures, histories, and expressive cultures of the greater southwest, spanning the late-nineteenth century to the present. The sequence brings together major Native, Chicana/o, and Anglo American writers in relation to each other and in relation to other forms of southwestern culture, including folklore, film, history, and art, as a way of exploring, experiencing, and studying the unique emergence of the American southwest.

Foundational Courses

English 2610 (ENGL296). American Literature I

English 2620 (ENGL297). American Literature II

English 2560 (ENGL264). Introduction to Native American Literature

English 2540 (ENGL265). Introduction to Chicana/o Literature

Courses of Special Interest

English 315. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Literature

English 364. Native Literatures and Rhetoric

English 365. Chicana/o Cultural Studies

English 397. Regional Literature

English 464. Advanced Studies in Native Literatures and Rhetorics

English 465. Chicano/a Literatures

English 468. Topics in American Literature (when appropriate)

English 474. Contemporary Southwestern Literature

Professional Writing Track

The UNM English Department offers several courses in professional writing for those students interested in careers as technical and professional writers and editors. Students taking these courses learn and practice skills in editing, publishing, document design, technical writing, documentation, and proposal writing, among other practical skills. Courses range from basic editing and documentation to scientific and nature writing, medical writing, and visual rhetoric. While primarily designed for students interested in practical careers, the professional writing courses can also give students an edge in graduate or professional programs that require expert skills in writing, visual communication, rhetoric, and rhetorical analysis. Along with topics courses, the department offers an internship in professional writing. Students who wish to complete their studies by writing a thesis in professional writing must qualify for and enter the English Department Honors Program.

Any of the following courses are recommended for students interested in professional writing:

ENGL 2110 (ENGL240): Traditional Grammar

ENGL 2220 (ENGL290): Introduction to Professional Writing
ENGL 413: Science/Medical/Environmental Writing
ENGL 414: Documentation
ENGL 415: Publishing
ENGL 416: Biography/Autobiography
ENGL 417: Editing
ENGL 418: Proposal and Grant Writing
ENGL 419: Visual Rhetoric
ENGL 420: Special Topics
ENGL 441: English Grammars
ENGL 442: Classical Rhetoric
ENGL 443: Contemporary Rhetoric
ENGL 487: Advanced Studies in Genre (when taught as nonfiction stylistics)
ENGL 499 Internship

❖ Poetics of Tradition & Innovation

Nineteenth- to Twenty-First Century Experimental Literature

The study of poetry and poetics at UNM includes a special focus on innovative composition with an emphasis on Romanticism through postmodernism. This track is designed to serve all intellectually curious students who have an interest in either critical or creative writing. Taken together, its courses foreground key transitions of literary history and poetic theory, seeking to explain connections across styles, periods, and borders. Those who commit to this template will develop a sophisticated set of formal interpretive skills, which will, in turn, inform a fresh sense of history, analysis, evaluation, and theory. They will come to understand the thriving literary culture of the present in relation to the boldest experiments and most fully-achieved masterpieces of the past.

Upon the completion of the B.A. degree, they will be able to articulate the main contours of the evolution of literary art and make practical use of a range of strategies for approaching “difficult” texts with confidence.

Foundational Courses

2640 (ENGL295). British Literature II

387. Introduction to Poetry Criticism

2620 (ENGL297). American Literature I

411/432. Avant-Garde and Experimental Aesthetics

360. T. S. Eliot and William Carlos Williams

456. British Romanticism

432. Travel and Literature

461. American Romanticism

470. Modernist Literature

458. Modern British Literature

473. Postmodernism

468. Ezra Pound and the Generations; Avant-Garde in America

487. Studies in Genre: Poetry & Poetics

480. English Poetry after Thomas Hardy and Ezra Pound

Recommended Courses
2110 (ENGL240) Traditional Grammar
Supplemental Courses
315. Mythos and the American Mind; Capital and Modernity
351. Chaucer
352-353. Early and/or Later Shakespeare
354. Milton
410. Criticism and Theory
422. Advanced Creative Writing—Poetry
453. Modern American Literature
459. Modern Irish Literature
472. Contemporary Literature

Thinking of Going to Graduate School--

in Literature?

Courses to prepare for grad school in Literature (MA or PhD):

Take at least 1 course each from this list:

British Literature I: 2630 (ENGL294)

Shakespeare: 352 or 353

In-depth Surveys: 348, 355, 356, 364 or 365

Honors/Capstone Course: 412

And take 4 additional courses, with at least one course each from this list:

BILS: 450-459

ALS: 460-466

Language, Theory, Genre: 410, 413, 441, 442, 443, 445, 487

in Professional Writing?

Courses to prepare for grad school in Professional Writing:

2220 (ENGL290) Introduction to Professional Writing

414 Documentation

415 Publishing

416 Biography and Autobiography

417 Editing

418 Proposal and Grant Writing

419 Visual Rhetoric

420 Topics in Professional Writing

in Rhetoric?

Courses to prepare for grad school in Composition and Rhetoric:

2110 (ENGL240) Traditional Grammar

320 Advanced Expository Writing

417 Editing

420 Topics in Professional Writing

440 Topics in Language or Rhetoric

441 English Grammars

442 Major Texts in Rhetoric

445 History of the English Language

in Creative Writing?

Courses to prepare for grad school in Creative Writing (MFA):

12 hours in Creative Writing courses: 2310 (ENGL224) (a prerequisite for all upper-level creative writing courses) and three other creative writing courses, including at least two at the 400 level

Creative writing students should also take 12 hours in other English Department courses. Possibilities include literature courses (351, 352/353, 364, 445, 448, 463, 465/466, 472) and professional writing courses (320, 415, 417)

The following courses are also recommended:

487 Genre Studies and

240 Traditional Grammar

420 Blue Mesa Review

Honors in English

Students are encouraged to participate in the Departmental Honors Program in English. Eligibility requirements are a 3.2 cumulative GPA based on at least 75 hours of college credit (including a minimum of 9 hours in English courses numbered 200 and above), a 3.5 GPA in English courses at UNM (based on at least 9 hours in English courses taken at UNM numbered 200 and above), and a letter of recommendation from a regular faculty member from the Department of English. In the Honors Program, you will work closely with a faculty sponsor in order to write an Honors Thesis—a serious critical research, professional, or creative project. Thus, the Departmental Honors program asks you to challenge yourself at the highest academic level. Successful completion demonstrates that you are not only an exceptional student with a strong commitment to excellence, but that you can take initiative on a focused project, meet needed deadlines, and work cooperatively.

The distinction of *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* in English is awarded to successful candidates. To help ensure that you receive distinction for your work, it is important that you take the required coursework in a timely fashion, work steadily on your project, and consult frequently with your faculty advisor. Honors brochures, application forms, and guidelines are available outside the Undergraduate Office, Humanities Building Room 223.

Sigma Tau Delta



SIGMA TAU DELTA
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Sigma Tau Delta is a coed honor society designed to confer distinction for high achievement in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies in English language and literature.

Membership in Sigma Tau Delta is an outward recognition of personal accomplishment. It also serves as an incentive for continued high scholarship. It provides opportunities for those interested in English language and literature to join with like-minded persons on the local, regional, national, and international levels. Members receive and have the opportunity to contribute to the society's two journals, *The Rectangle* (for creative writing) and *The Sigma Tau Delta Review* (for critical essays), and are eligible to compete for a number of prizes for excellent writing. Student members are also eligible to compete for several scholarships and awards, worth up to \$4,000. For more information, see the website at <http://www.english.org/sigmatd/>

Scholarships

The English Department offers a number of awards annually to its graduate students and undergraduates. Students interested in applying for awards should begin the application process by carefully reading the award descriptions as these may contain specific information about the application process not listed below. Students may apply for more than one award and specify all the awards applied for in the letter of intent, but need only submit one application; the Scholarship Committee will consider your application for all possible awards. In addition to other application materials specified by an individual award, all applicants must submit the following materials by March (precise date listed on department website):

- Letter of Intent
- Writing Sample
- Unofficial Transcript
- CV (optional)

- Letter of Recommendation. Whenever possible, this letter should come from a faculty member of the English Department

Information on specific scholarships is available online at <http://english.unm.edu/undergraduate/scholarships.html>