English | Major

“Alvernia’s English program offered me more than literature and creative writing; the professors offered me real experience with the chance to excel. The program is personal with professors who really care about their students and the quality of their work—even after graduation.” — Janine Surmick ’07, graduate student, MFA program at Chatham University

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The primary focus of the English program is the study and appreciation of literature. A traditional liberal arts major, English has always offered students opportunities for self-knowledge and growth as they explore the ideas of great writers of the past and present. The English major is also a practical choice because English courses encourage critical thinking, clear writing, and effective communication offering excellent preparation for graduate school or for careers in law, management, teaching, journalism, library science, government service, and other fields. Majors in English complete either the pre-professional sequence or a double major in English/Secondary Education, which prepares students to teach at the secondary level.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

English majors are encouraged to spend a semester interning at the Washington Center, a national agency for gaining practical experience by working in congressional offices, government agencies, news networks, or agencies devoted to legal affairs, international relations, or business and economic issues. In addition, they have opportunities to intern with not-for-profit organizations working with the environment, women’s issues, the arts, education, science, or labor relations.

CAREER SUCCESS

Graduates of Alvernia University’s English department have gone on to graduate studies at universities such as Villanova, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Pennsylvania. They have been employed by Manhattan College, Parsons, UGI Utilities, and the Reading Eagle-Times; by schools and churches from Reading to Tokyo; by public service institutions and not-for-profit organizations including the American Diabetes Association, Junior Achievement, and The Peace Corps; and by private industry in capacities ranging from management analyst to radio sportscaster. Our Career Services staff provides assistance with résumé preparation, interview skills, and job and graduate school searches.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising
Events Coordinator
Government Service
Human Resources
Journalism

Law
Library Science
Management
Public Relations
Secondary Education

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English Major Requirements (36 Credits)
ENG 302 Shakespeare: Histories & Comedies -OR- ENG 303 Shakespeare: Tragedies & Romances
ENG 406 Research Seminar
Choose 6 credits of American Literature:
ENG 203 Early American Poetry
ENG 204 Modern American Poetry
ENG 305 Early American Fiction
ENG 306 Modern American Fiction

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Choose 6 credits of British Literature:
ENG 205 Early British Literature
ENG 206 Modern British Poetry
ENG 307 The English Novel
ENG 401 Romantic and Victorian Writers
ENG 404 History of the English Language

Choose 6 credits of World Literature:
ENG 106 Short Story
ENG 202 Critical Approaches to Literature
ENG 207 Contemporary Fiction and Drama
ENG 213 Modern Drama
ENG 309 World Literature
ENG 310 Modern Novel
ENG 321 Ethics and Tragedy
ENG 355 Theatre History

Major writer or period course (3 credits)

9 credits of electives in literature and communication

English Minor Requirements (18 Credits)
Students majoring in other fields, particularly those in which communication skills are a valuable asset, may wish to consider an English minor attained by completing 18 credits in English and/or Communication with a maximum of 6 credits in communication.

COM 100 and COM 101 cannot be applied toward the minor.

English Secondary Education Major

COM 270 ESL Teachers
COM 310 Tutoring Assistant
ENG 202 Critical Approaches to Literature
ENG 209 Adolescent Literature
ENG 302 Shakespeare: Histories & Comedies -OR-
ENG 303 Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances
ENG 404 History of the English Language
ENG 406 Research Seminar
Expository or Creative Writing course (3 credits)
Major Writer or Period course (3 credits)
Electives representing British, American, and World Literature, including at least one course each in fiction, drama, or poetry (12 credits)

Required Liberal Arts Core

COM 101 Composition and Research
COM 103 Fundamentals of Speech -OR-
COM 155 Introduction to Acting
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

Secondary Education Professional Education

MAT 100 or Math in Liberal Arts
MAT 210 Educational Psychology

Required Requirements

SPE 100 Introduction to Exceptionalities in Children and Youth
ED 200 Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education
ED 206 Field Experience I
ED 306 Field Experience II
ED 313 Classroom Management
ED 330 Curriculum Design and Assessment
ED 333 Literacy Methods for Middle and Secondary Inclusive Classroom
ED 416 Field Experience III
ED 430 Methods of Teaching Secondary English
ED 470 Student Teaching
ED 472 Student Teaching Seminar

CONTACT INFORMATION

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