



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, 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 Development staff provides assistance with resume preparation, interview skills and job and graduate school searches.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising	Law
Events Coordinator	Library Science
Government Service	Management
Human Resources	Public Relations
Journalism	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

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

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 Communication Media, Film or Theatre Course
- 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

Related Requirements

- MAT Math other than MAT 100 or Math in Liberal Arts
- PSY 210 Educational Psychology

Secondary Education Professional Education

- 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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