

English



An English degree leads you to a brighter future through active learning. Engage in worthwhile research and creative problem-solving. Use innovative technology to combine the power of the word with image, sound and animation. Practice respectful but vigorous debate. Judge the differences between ethical and deceptive language. Deepen your insights into human values and cultural diversity as you track the progress of literary ideas. Discover how to shape the next generation’s reading, writing and critical-thinking skills. Simply put, an English degree helps you meet the complex demands of a global economy so you will thrive in whatever career you pursue.

Degree Details

The English B.A. requires two years of foreign language courses or the equivalent—such as credit for study abroad. Our new English B.S. program, debuting in fall 2018, requires advanced math, science or computer programming. Employers value both degrees because of your sharper expertise in reasoning and communication.

Select one of three tracks:

- Literary Studies
- Secondary Licensure, Language Arts
- Writing Studies

Or pursue an accelerated law degree. Earn your English bachelor’s and a juris doctorate in six years, not seven. Details are available at go.niu.edu/ENGL-accelerated-law.

“The English department is the most caring department at NIU.”

–Teacher Licensure Student, 2017

Personal Mentoring

In addition to highly interactive classes, why not work with professors one-on-one in independent studies, University Honors and the Research Rookies Program? Their guidance will help you realize your potential.

Present your scholarship at campus showcases or national conferences such as Sigma Tau Delta. Publish your writing and gain editorial experience with Towers magazine. Win prizes in department contests for fiction, poetry or essays.



Student Experiences

You can discover London and the British Isles in the summer Oxford Program—along with Shakespearean plays, individualized proctoring and selected cultural/historical sites. Scholarships are available to help you achieve this global experience.

Intern with a Chicago firm or an on-campus organization, where you will get on-the-job practice in web design, publicity or technical writing projects.

Join the Creative Writing Club. Become a Writing Center tutor. Perform in faculty-sponsored poetry or fiction readings at local coffee houses. Hone your leadership in Sigma Tau Delta, the national honor society headquartered at NIU.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of English

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Degree Requirements

All majors take courses in American and British literature, along with linguistics and writing courses. Literature students often center electives on a specific period or genre. Educator licensure students enroll in methods courses and on-site clinicals where they design materials suitable for the classrooms they observe. Writing students focus on types of workplace composition as well as mastering a specific creative genre.

Complete degree requirements are available at go.niu.edu/Englishstudies.

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Studies in Literature

Trace the development of British, American and world culture, from medieval to contemporary periods. Your literature professors publish with top scholarly presses such as Oxford and Cambridge, and present at leading national or international conferences.

Majors complete 39 English credit hours. Consult with faculty about preparation for advanced literary studies and scholarship—or careers associated with literary history, research, archiving, editing and publishing.

Secondary Licensure, Language Arts

Make a real difference in kids' lives. Join one of the most rewarding and challenging professions of all!

You will prepare in a nationally accredited program with widely published education professors who have taught and researched in regional school districts. High school candidates complete 40 English credit hours, plus student teaching (typically 12 credit hours). Middle school candidates do an English concentration of 33 hours in the College of Education's Middle Level Teacher Licensure Program. Candidates also complete state exams and an electronic portfolio for the Teacher Performance Assessment.

Studies in Writing

Balance technical and creative writing classes to assemble a portfolio that shows your full range of writing credentials. As part of your 42 English credit hours, take advantage of excellent internship opportunities available on campus or in the Chicago region. Earn a 12-credit hour certificate in creative writing as well, or add courses in journalism, playwriting, broadcasting and speech writing.

Your writing professors have garnered national recognition and honors in addition to impressive lists of publications in fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and professional writing scholarship.

Minors and Concentrations

- Black Studies
- Classical Studies
- Comparative Literature
- Concentration in Medieval Studies
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Latino and Latin American Studies
- Linguistics/ Cognitive Studies
- Literature
- Professional Communication

Careers Opportunities

English majors find jobs everywhere!

- Book editor
- Copywriter
- Court reporter
- English teacher or professor
- Forensic linguist
- Grant writer
- Literary agent
- Marketing researcher or editor
- Nonprofit executive director
- Policy and procedures writer
- Press secretary
- Proposal editor and specialist
- Public relations specialist
- Research analyst
- Script writer (TV, film, radio)
- Social Media strategist
- Speech writer
- Technical writer
- Translator/interpreter
- Website designer



Northern Illinois University
Your Future. Our Focus.

