College of Arts and Sciences

English

Overview
Students seeking English degrees from Kansas State University learn to think critically, reason carefully, communicate effectively, and appreciate excellent writing and thinking. Our undergraduate curriculum offers concentrations in literature, creative writing, and literature with teaching licensure as well as minors in both literature and writing.

Our faculty teach everything from Old English to contemporary popular literature. In the past five years, eight have won college and university teaching awards, including K-State's highest award for undergraduate teaching and the prestigious national CASE Teaching Award for Kansas. Three have won advising awards. Our dedicated faculty prepare you for the challenges you will meet in the future. Our small classes ensure personal attention and stimulating discussion.

Professional options

Careers
An English degree is versatile: It can lead to any number of careers, as our distinguished alumni will attest.

Besides laying the foundation for university-focused research, scholarship and teaching, English is an excellent pre-professional degree for medicine, dentistry, law, business or administration. An English degree prepares students for careers in editing, publishing, journalism and technical or imaginative writing. English majors also pursue careers in public administration. An English degree prepares you for the challenges you will meet in the future. Our small classes ensure personal attention and stimulating discussion.

Every semester the department of English organizes professional development sessions and informational meetings. We assist students with their applications to graduate and professional programs; we invite alumni to return and share their own professional paths with current students; and we help undecided students identify possible careers with interactive workshops.

Internships
Students are encouraged to pursue internships for credit toward the English major. Recently, students have completed internships as research assistants for our nationally recognized faculty in cultural studies, children's literature and writing center administration. Students also have completed internships for businesses and organizations in the region such as the Kansas City Zoo, a literacy nonprofit in Chicago and a film company.

For more information about internships, including interviews with recent student interns, visit k-state.edu/english/internship/.

Employers
K-State graduates with a bachelor's degree in English work in a wide variety of fields. English graduates have job titles such as:
- CEO of a proposal development company
- President of a community college
- Director of a public library
- Director of client relations for a child care management company
- Research analyst/librarian with a national laboratory
- Inventory manager for a bookshop/publisher
- Editorial director at a greeting card company
- Vice president for a financial management group
- Investigative analyst
- High school library media specialist
- Editorial assistant at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy
- Chief judge for a district in the State of Kansas
- Art gallery owner and manager

Academics

Degree options
The Department of English offers three undergraduate degree options. Students in these options take a common core of courses, completing the degree requirements from a variety of courses with a class size of 30 or fewer students. In consultation with advisors, students determine their program of study based on career goals and personal interests.

English courses reflect both traditional literary studies and more recently developed fields such as film, American ethnic literatures, world literature, children's literature, women in literature, cultural studies, comics, and science fiction and fantasy. Students take classes from award-winning writers, nationally known scholars and some of the best university instructors in the state.

Faculty provide detailed descriptions of their courses each semester, outlining the reading and assignments expected for each class. Visit k-state.edu/english/courses/ to review the descriptions for past and current semesters.

English and American literature option
Students in the literature option take 39 credit hours chosen from a range of courses, from Anglo-Saxon poetry and prose to contemporary literature and film. Courses emphasize close analysis of language and context, incisive critical writing and vigorous class discussion. Many courses connect with other disciplines such as history, philosophy, art, music, environmental science and sociology.

Creative writing option
Students interested in creative writing take 39 credit hours, 12 of which are in creative writing courses, with the remainder chosen from the department's literature and language courses. Classes are limited in size to encourage group consideration of student writing and to allow for a tutorial relationship between the instructor and each student. The creative writing program is also enriched by the appearance of prominent and emerging writers such as Billy Collins, Charles Baxter, M.T. Anderson, Kevin Young, Charles Simic, Ann Pancake, Helena Maria Viramontes and Michael Cunningham. Visiting writers may offer readings, conduct classes and confer with individual students.

Points of pride
Recent English majors have won university and national awards from the Center for Entrepreneurship, Chapman Scholarships, Sigma Tau Delta and other professional societies.
Teaching licensure option
English majors who plan to teach at the secondary school level select 39 hours from the department’s language, literature and creative writing offerings. Majors in this option also may fulfill the College of Education's secondary school certification requirements, thus earning both a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Science in education.

Dual majors
Students may select English as one program in a dual major degree. The program combines well with languages, political science, history, philosophy and business administration. The degree's emphasis on textual analysis and writing works well with majors in the quantitative, physical and social sciences.

English minor
The minor in English is an 18-hour program allowing students to emphasize the study of literature, writing, language or cultural studies. The English minor is excellent preparation for pre-professional majors, graduate school in other fields and jobs that value excellent communication skills. Students have two options for the minor in English: one focusing on literature, the other on writing.

Activities

Clubs
The English department encourages undergraduates to take an active role in the academic and social life of the department.

Eligible students are invited to be inducted into our chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honorary society. Sigma Tau Delta offers opportunities to apply for scholarships and internships from the organization, to participate in conferences, and to publish creative and academic work in national journals.

Undergraduate students serve as English Ambassadors and as tutors in the department’s Writing Center or for community tutoring programs. Students may also participate in the planning, editing and production of the annual literary magazine Touchstone.

Each semester undergraduates socialize in department-sponsored events and through student clubs or groups organized around common interests such as creative writing, cultural studies, composition, and children's and adolescent literature. They are invited to participate in department-sponsored lectures, readings and films.

Conferences and workshops
Undergraduate students have presented their creative and academic work at national and international conferences. Every year successful English alumni return to campus to tell their stories and help current majors envision the future. The English department also provides workshops on applying to graduate school and career development.

For more information about English, contact:
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Kansas State University
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Post-Graduation Statistics
k-state.edu/postgrad-stats
ksdegreestats.org