

Student Learning Outcomes for English Majors in the Bachelor of Arts Program at Kansas State University [Approved 9/24/03]

The English Department at Kansas State University is an academic community of professors and students who are committed to creative and analytical work in English, and dedicated to the primary goals of a liberal education: the ability to reason well, to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to appreciate excellent writing and thinking.

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree, English majors should be able to do the following:

1. Generate a close reading of a text: Recognize, understand, and explain a text's elements--for example, word choice, imagery, form, and connotations.
2. Draw on relevant cultural and historical information to analyze and interpret a literary text.
3. Identify and explain the significance of texts in literary history using an understanding and appreciation of their style.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with British/American literary traditions, including prominent authors, genres, literary movements, and styles, as well as the historical and cultural contexts important to those traditions.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with literary works by writers of diverse backgrounds (for example, race, gender, class, ethnicity, ideological perspective, and sexual orientation.)
6. Research and write focused, convincing analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose.
7. Tailor writing for various audiences and purposes.
8. Think independently, employing logic, interpretive skills, and analytical strategies.
9. Participate in discussions by listening to others' perspectives, asking productive questions, and articulating original ideas.