

## THE ENGLISH MAJOR AT CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

The English curriculum has been designed in order to provide flexibility for both majors and faculty. Under this curriculum, it's possible to satisfy major requirements in a wide variety of ways. Students who want to focus on specific areas may specialize in American literature, British literature, Irish literature, Creative Writing, Rhetoric and Composition Studies, and English Education and still be able to pursue other areas of interest. In short, the new curriculum is more student-centered than the old.

**The BA in English requires a total of thirty-six credit hours. Twenty-one of these hours are required of all English majors. An additional fifteen hours are chosen by the student, depending on specialization or interests.**

### REQUIRED COURSES FOR ALL MAJORS (21 hours)

(Note: Some course numbers have changed, though the courses have not. The old numbers appear in parentheses after the new numbers. Consult the department web site for more details.)

#### GATEWAY (6 hrs)

*Eng 201: Interpreting Texts* (3 hrs)

AND

*Eng 202: Entering A Professional Dialogue* (3 hrs)

#### DISTRIBUTION AREAS (12 hrs total)

(Note: Though a few of the following courses appear under more than one distribution area, each course can satisfy only one requirement.)

#### *Literatures and Histories* (3 hrs)

ENG 329, 330, 340, 341, 342, 350, 351, 352, 353, 372, 381, 389, 390, 393, 398, 405, 410, 420, 425, 426 (526), 430, 431(531), 432 (532), 433 (533), 435 (535), 436 (536), 444 (544), 450 (550), 475 (576), 480, 481, 482, 483, 484

*Authors* (3 hrs)      OR      *Genres* (3 hrs)

Authors: Eng 408 (510), 409 (509), 411 (511), 412 (512)

Genres: ENG 301, 302, 312, 313, 314, 315, 380, 420, 425, 431 (531), 442 (542), 443 (543), 444 (544), 451 (551), 452 (552), 453 (553), 460 (560), 461 (561), 469 (569), 470, 471 (570), 473 (573), 474 (574), 475 (575)

AND

#### *Cultures and Identities* (3 hrs)

ENG 305, 312, 329, 353, 371, 372, 390, 393, 398, 410, 426 (526), 434 (534), 440, 476

AND

#### *Writing and Language* (3 hrs)

ENG 251, 300, 301, 302, 305, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 317, 403, 404, 421 (520), 438, 439, 472 (581), 476, 477 (580), 479

### ENG 499 (500): SENIOR PROJECT (3 hrs)

### ADDITIONAL COURSES

#### ELECTIVES IN MAJOR (15 hrs)

OR

#### SPECIALIZATIONS (9-12 hrs) and ELECTIVES (3-6 hrs)

(Note: Courses appearing under Specializations may also satisfy Distribution Area requirements.)

#### SPECIALIZATION IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

1. ENG 350 (American Lit I: Beginnings to Civil War)
2. ENG 351 (Civil War to WWI)
3. ENG 352 (Twentieth Century British and American)
4. One of the following: ENG 372 (Western Literature of the United States), ENG 393 (African American Lit) or ENG 412 (512) (Major Authors, when American) or ENG 434 (534) (Irish American Literature) or ENG 482 (Special Topics in American Literature) or another course devoted to American literature (as approved by Advisor and Chair)
5. An additional three-credit American lit course at 300-level or above.

#### SPECIALIZATION IN BRITISH LITERATURE

1. ENG 340 (Brit Lit I: Medieval and Renaissance)
2. ENG 341 (Brit Lit II: Late Renaissance and Neo-Classical)
3. ENG 342 (Brit Lit III: Victorian)
4. ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: ENG 409 (509) (Shakespeare) or ENG 411 (511) (Milton) or ENG 412 (512) (Major Authors, when a British author) or ENG 481 (Special Topics in British Literature) or another course devoted to British literature (as approved by Advisor and Chair)
5. One additional three-credit English course at 300-level or above.

#### SPECIALIZATION IN CREATIVE WRITING

1. ENG 300 (Intro to Creative Writing)

2. ENG 301 (Narrative Forms)
3. ENG 302 (Poetic Forms)
4. ENG 403 (Seminar in Creative Writing)
5. One additional three-credit English course at 300-level or above.

#### SPECIALIZATION IN ENGLISH EDUCATION

Students wishing to pursue certification in English Education should consult with their English and secondary education advisors for specific course requirements.

#### SPECIALIZATION IN IRISH LITERATURE

1. ENG 330 (Intro to Irish Literature)
2. ENG 432 (532) (The Irish Renaissance)
3. ENG 433 (533) (Contemporary Irish Literature)
4. One of the following: ENG 412 (512) (Major Authors, when an Irish author) or ENG 431 (531) (Irish Drama) or ENG 434 (534) (Irish American Literature) or ENG 430 (535) (Studies in Irish Literature) or ENG 436 (536) (Studies in Irish Literary History and Culture) or ENG 483 (Special Topics in Irish Literature) or another course devoted to Irish literature (as approved by Advisor and Chair)
5. One additional three-credit English course at 300-level or above.

#### SPECIALIZATION IN RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION

1. ENG 312 (Mass Media and Modern Culture) or 380 (History of Cinema)
2. 314 (Explorations of the Essay: Self, Subject, and Culture), ENG 315 (Technical and Professional Writing), or 439 (Literacy and Technology)
3. ENG 317 (Composition Theory and Practice), 438 (Literacy and Community), or 472 (Alternative Discourse in the Academy)
4. ENG elective (3 Hours) or another course devoted to Rhetoric and Composition (as approved by Advisor and Chair)
5. One additional three-credit English course at 300-level or above.

## FAQ's ABOUT THE NEW CURRICULUM

### Who falls under the new curriculum?

If you were accepted to the major after August 24, 2005, you are automatically on the new curriculum. If you were accepted before August 24, 2005, you can choose to follow either the old curriculum or the new one. If you wish to switch to the new one, you will need to notify your advisor and the Department Chair.

### Will the courses I've already taken still count?

Yes, because the new curriculum is much more flexible. However, the courses you have taken will count toward distribution areas or specializations rather than as "period" requirements or "tracks." Your advisor will help you to see where your previous courses fit and let you know what other courses you might need or wish to take.

## What happened to Eng 254? What are Eng 201 and 202?

ENG 254 (“Writing about Literature”) was the foundation course for the old curriculum, required of all majors. As those of you who have taken 254 know, it is a course that worked to accomplish a lot of goals in just a single semester. In order to better introduce students to the wide range of knowledge and skills important to have as the foundation of any future work in the broad field of English Studies, we’ve elected to spread out the goals of ENG 254 into a two-semester course sequence, allowing us to introduce several essential goals that didn’t previously “fit” in a single semester course. Thus, ENG 201 (“Interpreting Texts”) and ENG 202 (“Entering a Professional Dialogue”) cover many of the same topics that were covered in 254 (e.g., an introduction to literary theory; building your skills as writer; introducing various research tools and methodologies in the discipline). But they also build on that and introduce new skills and activities that will better help you to define goals for yourself.

You can take Eng 201 and 202 in any order. However, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU TAKE THESE COURSES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN YOUR CAREER IN THE MAJOR. This is especially true as these courses will help you decide if you wish to choose a specialization, and will also help you in considering future course work, including your senior project.

## If I’ve already taken ENG 254, but I want to switch to the new curriculum, do I still need to take 201 and/or 202?

If you’re switching from the old to the new curriculum, and you’ve already taken 254, you are not required to take either 201 or 202. But that does not mean that 254 now counts for 6 hours. You’ll need to make sure that you take 36 hours in the major; thus, you can take another 3-hour upper level course as an elective in the major. That course could be 201 or 202, if you wanted, but it doesn’t have to be.

## What is English 499: Senior Project?

This is a Senior Project course (Eng 499, formerly Eng 500). Each senior, regardless of specialization, will produce an appropriate senior project. This could be a traditional scholarly research paper based on a topic in American, British, or Irish Literature. It could be a creative project (a collection of poems or short stories); or it could be a project in a form of new media (in keeping with some of the advanced work in Rhetoric and Composition studies). Each student will work one-on-one with a faculty mentor to produce this project. The project may be based on work done in a prior course or courses, but should also represent a significant further development of that prior work.

Under the old curriculum, only Creative Writing students had an individual senior project. Literature students were required to take a Senior Seminar that was typically focused on a faculty member’s research interest, not the students’ own research/writing interests. The department thought the experience afforded to the Creative Writing students was important enough that it should be offered to all majors in all areas, regardless of area of interest. It is to be driven by the student’s own research and writing interest and concerns.

While a Senior Project is a demanding endeavor, it will allow you to graduate with a major work of scholarship or art that you can truly call your own. This project represents the culmination of your work in your area of interest and will stand as your major achievement and contribution to your chosen area of interest and expertise.

## How should I choose, if I have a choice?

Compare the old curriculum with the new, remembering that courses you have already taken still count toward the major. Talk with your advisor to see how those courses satisfy the new requirements and to choose other courses you might need or wish to take.

## How will the new curriculum help me after I graduate?

This is a tough question to ask about any curriculum and any major, especially since statistics show that the average person will change careers five or six times throughout a lifetime. It seems clear, though, that a program more closely tailored to a student’s interests is better than one that makes the student conform to it. For every career that matters, the skills and attitudes developed in an English education remain highly prized: effective communication, close analysis, open-mindedness, creativity, organized thinking, and cultural understanding.

## What if I want to minor in English?

Minor in English can enhance a major in another discipline that requires a high level of skill in writing, critical thinking, and creativity. To minor in English, a student must take Eng 201 and 202 and four additional upper-level English courses (300-level or above), chosen in consultation with your departmental advisor.

## How do I declare the major or minor?

Point a web browser to the following URL and follow the instructions: <https://people.creighton.edu/~bjk79676/majorApp.php>

# MAJORING IN ENGLISH

