



English

College of Liberal Studies

The UW–L English Major: Exciting, Flexible, and Affordable

The UW–L English major prepares students for a rewarding life by enhancing their abilities to read, think, and write effectively and passionately about the texts and ideas that shape our world.

English majors graduate with job-ready skills in the following:

- understanding words in their historical and literary contexts
- articulating, debating, and defending a position
- analyzing the motives and evidence behind other writers' or speakers' claims
- collecting, organizing, and analyzing information
- understanding multiple points of view and multiple ways to evaluate a situation
- synthesizing knowledge from diverse fields (politics, history, sociology, economics)
- reading, thinking, and writing critically and creatively
- communicating effectively in a variety of contexts

An Exciting Community

Boasting a low student-to-teacher ratio and small classes, UW–L's English Department is like "family," according to one recent graduate reflecting back from her new life in graduate school. Our student-run English Club, campus chapter of the National English Honors Society, and various student-run and -written publications give majors and minors many opportunities to share their passion for reading and writing with each other, the department, and the community.

A Practical Program

At 36 and 37 credits, UW–L's English major programs provide an excellent education in the discipline with a credit load that allows for great flexibility in

selecting compatible minors, a double major, or an Honors Program track, as well as in exploring various other fields of knowledge through elective coursework. With proper planning, the English major degree can be earned in four years. It is also affordable, with eight scholarships available exclusively to English and English Education majors/minors, and with paid internship opportunities on campus.

Undergraduate Programs

MAJORS

BA in English, Literature Emphasis 36 Credits

This general English degree broadens and deepens the knowledge of literatures, and the histories and cultures which they reflect and produce. In addition to literature studies, courses in language, literary styles, writing, and critical theory make this a diversified degree in the humanities with many career options and a rich foundation for a contemplative, reflective experience.

BA in English, Rhetoric & Writing Emphasis 37 Credits

This English degree works to improve your writing abilities, deepen your understanding of writing situations, and prepare you for many career paths. With courses dedicated to the craft of writing and rhetorical analysis as well as literary and cultural studies, this emphasis culminates in an electronic portfolio, which will include your best work in different genres.

BA in English, Teacher Certification (English Education) 37 Credits

This degree combines a major in English similar to the Literature Emphasis degree with coursework in Education Studies leading to certification as a Language Arts/English Teacher at middle and high school levels.

MINORS

Creative Writing Minor 18 Credits

English Minor 18 Credits

Professional Writing Minor 19 Credits

Middle/Secondary English Education Minor 27 Credits

Elementary/Middle English Education Minor 27 Credits

Department Features

Faculty:

PhD's—22

MFA's, Creative Writing—2

MA's—5

Graduate Assistants—0.

The English Department faculty is comprised of specialists in literature, cultural studies, rhetoric and writing, journalism, and creative writing. All English courses at UW–L are taught by professors who have mastered the art of teaching, not by people who are still learning it. At least half of UW–L's English teachers are best described as "somewhat crazed" with enthusiasm for the material they teach – and for the people they teach. All are quite insistent that the things they love and teach are interesting in a human way, not just an academic way. We don't teach topics or subjects here; we teach students.

Our Community

Classes

Small: 18–20 students in all upper level courses, despite the fact that we have some 200 majors and 180 minors. By numbers of faculty, English is one of the largest departments on campus, but we maintain small class sizes and encourage one-on-one teacher/student contact outside of classes.

Undergraduate Research

UW–L is distinguished for its excellent and well-supported Undergraduate Research Program. The English Department faculty have mentored a large number of our majors and minors in successful undergraduate research grants, and student projects have ranged from literary scholarship to creative work; from papers and panels presented at national conferences to international research in such places as Guatemala, Africa, Vietnam, and Spain.

International Study Opportunity

Students in English regularly take advantage of UW–L’s multifaceted International Education opportunities. Students have traveled with faculty to Scotland for a semester in Edinburgh and on directed study tours in the Lake Country in England in summer terms; they have studied Irish literature in Ireland and Latin American literature in Mexico. We develop strong international perspectives within our courses and we encourage and support study abroad.

The English Club and English Honors

Students and faculty in English have worked together to build the English Club into one of the most active student organizations on campus. The club organizes numerous activities each year, ranging from community service activities to literary and creative writing events. They host “Speak,” a twice-monthly open-mic literary reading at the Student Center; they publish *Wandering Scribe*, an electronic and print creative magazine for student artists. Twice a year, the club also hosts a popular English Department student/faculty kickball social and cookout.

Alpha Nu Upsilon is the UW–L chapter of the national English Honors

Society, and our student members have regularly presented scholarly papers and panels at the annual national English Honors conventions, as well as hosting reading groups, a children’s creative writing workshop, a film festival, and other activities locally and on campus.

<http://www.simple-assault.com/englishclub.htm>

The English Department Colloquium

The English Department hosts monthly colloquia at which faculty and students present discussions, papers, and creative performances on topics ranging from Evolution and Tennyson’s poetry to a multi-media satire of classical Greek drama, written and performed by students in an upper level course.

Local, Regional, and National Publications

Our students gain valuable work experience producing, editing, and publishing *Wandering Scribe*, a student creative magazine, *The Catalyst*, a discursive/creative journal of the UW–L Honors Program, and *Steam Ticket*, our regionally and nationally recognized creative writing magazine.

The Writing Center

Advanced English majors have the opportunity to train and work as paid peer tutors in our Writing Center, which offers assistance with writing problems for the campus community. <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

Scholarships

We have 8 endowed scholarships committed exclusively to English and English Education majors and minors, with awards distributed each year by a panel of English faculty. Recent awards range from \$150 to \$1750.

- The Donna Hanson Scholarship in English
- The William J. Hyde English Department Scholarship Fund
- *The Albert H. and Helen Kent English Scholarship
- *The Mary H. Heberd English Scholarship
- The Thomas Baird McIlraith English Scholarship
- The Leo and Gertrude Schnur Scholarship for English Teacher Education
- *The Jay Norris Scholarship in English

- *The Betty Wenzel Brown English Education Scholarship

* Eligible for freshmen

See the UW-L Foundation Web page for more information and downloadable applications.

www.foundation.uwlax.edu/schbooklet.html

Sample Courses

- Literature and Environmental Action
- Creative Writing
- The Graphic Novel
- Electronic Publication Production
- Prose Style and Editing
- Journalism: Reporting and Copy Editing
- World Literatures
- Jane Austen
- Creative Nonfiction
- The Ethics of Reading: Discourse Literacy, Power, and Democracy
- U.S. Latino Literature
- Linguistics
- Caribbean Literature and Culture
- Women and Hollywood Film: Traditions and Responses
- The Romantic Poets
- Shakespeare
- Modern English Grammars

Career Opportunities

Traditional Fields of Employment for English Majors

- Copywriter
- Editor
- Public Relations / Promotion
- Web-Content Developer
- Teacher / Professor
- Press Agent
- Tour Publicist
- Critic/Reviewer
- Publicity Director
- Lawyer
- Librarian
- Literary Agent
- Corporate Trainer
- Writer - possibilities include Journalist, Screenwriter, Technical Writer, Fiction Writer, Poet, Travel Writer, Staff Writer, News Writer, Speechwriter, Marketing

Occupational Outlook

People Who Hire English Majors include:

- Newspapers, journals, and magazines
- Federal government (State Department, Smithsonian Institute, National Archives)
- State, regional, and local governments
- Local and International businesses
- Relief agencies
- Advertising agencies
- Travel agencies
- Religious organizations

While the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics* projects that overall employment for college graduates will grow by 26% between 2000-2010, about half of the top twenty occupations for achieving growth in the next decade are ones for which English majors are qualified. Examples are: Public Relations Specialists, 36%; Technical Writers, 30%; Analysts, 29%; Authors, 28%; Actors, Producers, and Directors, 27%; and College and University Teachers, 23%.

Significantly, BLS projects approximately 20,000 new jobs for Technical Writers, 50,000 for Authors, and 900,000 for Teachers at the Post-Secondary level.

Bachelor of English degrees can also lead to Graduate School, and UW-L's English Program has been quite successful in preparing individuals for Graduate Degree Programs in Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, American Studies, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, and for Professional Programs in Law. See the *Kudos to Students* link on the UW-L English Department's Home Page for a few examples of what our alumni are doing.

Internships

The Career Services Office at UW-L coordinates some of the paid and non-paid internships available for English majors. Several publications, including several Coulee region magazines and La Crosse's two large Medical Facility's Newsletters, regularly seek UW-L English majors for internships in editing, writing, and planning publications. Many local businesses also welcome English majors to apply for internships. Majors have also created innovative internships; one, for example, in English as a Second Language (discussion and coaching sessions in English-speaking for non-native speakers). Additionally, the Writing Center is staffed by English majors, who earn a salary for tutoring students from all programs on campus.

**Occupational Outlook Quarterly*.
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For more information, or to schedule a pre-enrollment conference, please contact the chair of the English Department: (608) 785-8295; (608) 785-8296; English@uwlax.edu

www.uwlax.edu/english



I look for people who can think critically and analytically. If you can do those things, we can teach you our business.

—Paula Dorminski, Recruiter for Macy's/Bloomingtondale's

Give me English majors; I can train new hires in public relations, but I can't train people into broad cultural literacy and understanding, and they need that more than anything.

—PR Magazine

Literature is unbelievably helpful because no matter what business you are in, you are dealing with interpersonal relationships.

—Michael Eisner, former Disney CEO (English & Theatre major)



Here are a few well-known English majors.

