Department Overview

The UWL Department of English specializes in the study of literature, culture linguistics, rhetoric, writing, and teaching. Our dynamic and interdisciplinary coursework focuses on fostering critical and creative thinking, applying real-world situations, developing in-demand writing skills, and promoting independent and collaborative experiences.

Critical and creative thinking: English students develop analytical reasoning skills, the ability to see problems from diverse perspectives, and learn to be proactive in developing creative, ethical solutions.

Knowledge of real-world situations: Students have many opportunities for applied learning such as internships, course-embedded client service projects with community organizations, and course-embedded research projects.

In-demand writing skills: More than 75% of business executives and hiring managers surveyed in a 2018 study say that writing skills are extremely important for job applicants. The English Department is a writing-in-the-major program, which means that students will learn and develop valuable writing skills throughout their major.

Independent and collaborative experience: English students learn to prioritize and manage their time, as well as work effectively in teams by building interpersonal skills and the confidence to express ideas. More than 75% of business executives and hiring managers surveyed in a 2018 study value these.

A PRACTICAL PROGRAM

The English major allows for flexibility in selecting a minor or a double major. English offers a variety of minors that can be developed on top of an English major or another compatible major. This allows for English majors and minors to develop interdisciplinary expertise and boost their marketability.

Undergraduate Programs

Majors:
- English with emphases available in:
  - Literature & Cultural Studies
  - Writing & Rhetoric Studies
  - Medical Professions
  - Teacher Certification (English Education)

Minors:
- Creative Writing
- Literary & Cultural Studies
- Professional and Technical Writing
- English Education
- Linguistics

Certificate:
- Professional & Technical Writing

Sample Courses

- Writing for Stage & Screen
- Varieties of English
- Fiction, Poetry, & Creative Nonfiction Writing
- Introduction to Linguistics:
  - Phrases & Sentences
  - Literary Journal Production
  - Language Study for Teachers
  - Publishing in a Digital Age
  - Literature & Environmental Action
  - History of the English Language
  - Contemporary African-American Literature & Film
- Pedagogical Approaches to Young Adult Literature
- The Comic Book
- Journalism & New Media
- Prose Style & Editing
- Digital Content Writing, Strategy, & Experience Design
- Introduction to Teaching & Writing
- Grant Writing
- Writing in the Sciences
- Literature, Medicine, & Culture
- Rhetoric, Health, & Medicine

SCHOLARSHIPS

The English Department offers eight competitive scholarships specifically for majors, and awards more than $5,000 to qualified students every year.
Program Features

ENGLISH, LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES EMPHASIS
39 Credits
Through practice analyzing diverse cultural, ethical, and global perspectives, students in this major develop the writing and research skills necessary to find creative solutions to complex problems in their careers and communities.

ENGLISH, WRITING & RHETORIC EMPHASIS
36 Credits
This major provides students with the knowledge, skills, and flexibility necessary to succeed in a number of career paths, including professional and technical writing, creative writing, journalism, linguistics, and graduate studies, as well as other communication-related fields.

ENGLISH, MEDICAL PROFESSIONS EMPHASIS
38 Credits
The medical professions emphasis combines courses from English and Biology to prepare students for careers in healthcare by completing some prehealth care coursework, practicing their writing skills, and studying the human condition through narrative.

ENGLISH, TEACHER CERTIFICATION (ENGLISH EDUCATION)
43 Credits
Through course work and field experience, English Education majors gain instructional and disciplinary tools to make concepts and aspects of the subject matter meet the needs of adolescent learners at both the middle and high school levels.

ENGLISH MINORS
English offers a variety of minors that are great additions to other areas of study. Adding an English minor is a great way to develop writing and communication skills that pair well with many other majors, including those that focus on technical skills. To find out more about minoring in English, visit our website: https://www.uwlax.edu/english

Department Features
We maintain small class sizes, and no English courses are taught by graduate students. The English department faculty are committed to one-on-one contact in the classroom and in advising. English faculty have been honored for UWL, UW System, and national awards for teaching, inclusiveness, research, creative endeavors, service, and community engagement.

Student Opportunities and Resources

CAREERS
Graduates from UWL's English programs have gone on to careers in a variety of fields including publishing, public relations, marketing, professional/technical writing, teaching, medicine, and law.
- Science Communicator
- Marketing Director
- Youth Services Librarian
- Admissions Counselor
- Community Relations Manager
- Director of Corporate Communications
- Business Law Attorney
- Medical Device Marketing
- Secondary English Teacher
- Corporate Events Planner
- Dairy and Livestock Agent
- Corporate Instructional Designer

INTERNSHIPS
Local businesses and magazines, as well as La Crosse's two large medical facilities, regularly seek UWL English students for internships. Students can earn academic credit, while gaining real-world experience in fields such as:
- Publishing
- News Reporting
- Magazine Writing
- Social Media Writing
- Science Writing
- Grant Writing
- Graphic/Website Design
- Marketing

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVITY
English students have received grants for various projects and have presented their research at UWL and regional and national conferences. Students have also published creative works in local and national publications.

STUDY ABROAD
Students can gain a global perspective by studying literature and writing in Scotland, England, London, Ireland, or Australia.

THE WRITING CENTER
Advanced English majors have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience as paid peer tutors in the UWL Writing Center, which offers the campus community assistance with writing assignments and projects.

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY
Members of Alpha Nu Upsilon have regularly presented scholarly papers and panels at the annual national English Honors conventions, as well as hosted film festivals, children’s creative writing workshops, and other events.

Please visit us at www.uwlax.edu/english/our-alumni