



Undergraduate Programs

MAJORS:

- English with emphases available in:
 - Literature
 - Rhetoric & Writing
 - Teacher Certification (English Education)

MINORS:

- Creative Writing
- English Literature
- Professional and Technical Writing
- English Education
- Linguistics

Sample Courses

- Literature and Environmental Action
- Creative Writing
- Journalism: Reporting and Copy Editing
- World Literatures
- Language Study for Teachers
- Publishing in a Digital Age
- Latino Literature in English
- Linguistics
- Studies in Film and Literature
- Writing in the Sciences
- Literature of American Ethnic and Minority Cultures
- Seminar in Advanced Fiction Writing
- Shakespeare
- Writing Portfolio
- Adolescent Literature
- English Internship
- Professional Writing

Department Overview

The English Department specializes in the study of literature, linguistics, rhetoric, writing, and teaching. Our dynamic and interdisciplinary work fosters an appreciation for the beauty and power of the English language, promotes open inquiry, excites the imagination, and arouses intellectual curiosity. In the tradition of liberal arts education, we promote analytic skills and encourage scholarship from our faculty and students alike. Emphasizing the practical application of knowledge, we empower our students long past graduation and enrich the pleasure they find in reading, writing, and teaching.

The English Department examines what readers do when they read and what writers do when they write. Through language and story, humans interpret the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future. We believe that the close study of language, writing, and literature should be a transformative experience culminating in literate, articulate, imaginative, and open-minded individuals who can take on roles as responsible citizens in diverse and dynamic communities.

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Boasting a low student-to-teacher ratio and small classes, UWL'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 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 36-44 credits, the English major provides an excellent education in the discipline with a credit load that allows for great flexibility in selecting compatible minors or a double major, as well as in exploring various other fields of knowledge through elective coursework. With proper planning, the English degree can be earned in four years.



"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." -Groucho Marx
(English Club T-Shirt Design)

View degree requirements:
www.uwlax.edu/catalog

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English

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Program Features

ENGLISH, LITERATURE EMPHASIS

39 Credits

The Literature major emphasis teaches you how to interpret a wide variety of texts representing the great range of human experience and expression. Through guided practice in written and oral presentations, you engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary conversations about literature, culture, and human diversity.

ENGLISH, RHETORIC & WRITING EMPHASIS

36 Credits

The rhetoric & writing emphasis deepens your understanding of a range of writing situations, improves your writing abilities, and provides a solid background for a number of career paths, including professional writing, teaching, creative writing, journalism, linguistics, and graduate studies, as well as other communication-related fields.

ENGLISH, TEACHER CERTIFICATION (ENGLISH EDUCATION)

44 Credits

The English education major prepares you to be middle and high school English teachers licensed to teach in Wisconsin. Through course work and field experiences, you focus on the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the disciplines, as well as instructional tools to make these aspects of the subject matter meaningful for all learners.

Department Features

FACULTY

Ph.D.s—27

MFAs, Creative Writing—2

MAs—6

Graduate Assistants—0

The English Department faculty is comprised of specialists in literature, cultural studies, education, rhetoric and writing, journalism, and creative writing. All English courses at UWL are taught by professors who have mastered the art of teaching. At least half of UWL's English teachers are best described as "somewhat crazed" with enthusiasm for the material they teach – and for the people they teach.

CLASSES

Classes are small; 15-22 students in all upper level courses, despite the fact that we have some 175 majors and 150 minors. By numbers of faculty, English is one of the largest departments on campus. We maintain small class sizes and encourage one-on-one teacher/student contact outside of classes.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

UWL is distinguished for its excellent and well-supported Undergraduate Research Program. English Department faculty have mentored many students in successful research grants. Students have received grants for projects on graphic novels, Frank Capra's film heroines, the Harry Potter series, and bird imagery in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*, among other topics. Students present their research at regional and national undergraduate conferences, as well as the annual UWL Celebration of Student Research and Creativity.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY

Students in English regularly take advantage of UWL's multifaceted International Education opportunities. Students have traveled with faculty to Scotland for a semester in Edinburgh and on directed summer study tours in England's Lake District; they have studied Shakespeare in London, and Irish literature in Ireland. We develop strong global perspectives within our courses and encourage and support studying abroad.

THE ENGLISH CLUB

The student-run English Club organizes numerous events each year, from community service activities to literary and creative writing events. It hosts "Speak," a twice-monthly open-mic literary reading at the Student Center, and club members edit *The Catalyst*, the University's online creative arts and ideas journal featuring student work. The club also hosts a popular English Department student/faculty kickball social.

NATIONAL ENGLISH HONORS SOCIETY

Alpha Nu Upsilon is the UWL 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 hosted reading groups, a children's creative writing workshop, a film festival, and other activities.

THE WILLIAM J. AND YVONNE HYDE COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The English Department hosts monthly colloquia at which faculty, and sometimes students, give presentations on a wide range of research and teaching-related topics. Recent presentations include the following:

- Student Interpretation and Application of Peer and Instructor Writing Comments
- Sansa's Songs: Medieval Romance in a Game of Thrones
- Responding Efficiently and Effectively to Student Writing
- LGBTQ Literature of the Midwest
- Race and Blindness in American Film
- Virginia Wolf and Environmental Modernism
- Digital Reflections: Class and Culture After Print

THE WRITING CENTER

Advanced English majors have the opportunity to train and work as paid peer tutors in our Writing Center, which offers the campus community assistance with writing assignments and projects.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We have eight 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 \$1,750.

- 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. Hebbard 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*

* Freshmen are eligible

INTERNSHIPS

UWL's Career Services Office coordinates the paid and non-paid internships available for English majors. Several Coulee Region magazines and newspapers, as well as La Crosse's two large medical facilities' newsletters, regularly seek UWL English majors for internships in planning, writing, and editing publications. Local businesses also welcome English majors to apply for internships. Some students have created innovative internships, one, for example, in English as a Second Language (discussion and coaching sessions in English-speaking for non-native speakers). Professional and Technical Writing minors are required to complete an internship as part of their program.

“The ability to write, read and interpret information, and organize thoughts is a large part of what makes me a valuable employee.”

- Cheryl Ann (Bruess) Perry, former UWL English student (1989)

Career Opportunities

Graduates from UWL's English programs have gone on to careers in a variety of fields. Below we have included a selection of our graduates' professions.

- Timothy Smith (2012), Account Analyst, STS Commerce
- Christopher Callaway (2010), Sports Director, La Crosse Radio Group
- Gina Marie Rizzo (2009), Publicity Assistant, Penguin Group USA
- Jonathan Min Plotz (2005), Language Arts Teacher and Debate Coach, Anoka High School (MN)
- Karen Strenski (2003), Manuscript Editor, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

For more information, please visit:

www.uwlax.edu/english/our-alumni