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
• Forms of Fiction & Poetry
• Introduction to Linguistics: Phrases & Sentences
• Literary Journal Production
• Language Study for Teachers
• Publishing in a Digital Age
• Literature and Environmental Action
• History of the English Language
• Contemporary African-American Literature & Film
• Pedagogical Approaches to Young Adult Literature
• The Comic Book
• Journalism and New Media
• Prose Style and Editing
• Digital Content Writing
• Introduction to Teaching and Writing
• Grant Writing
• Writing in the Sciences

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 Book 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.
Program Features

ENGLISH, LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES EMPHASIS
39 Credits
The literary & cultural studies 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, WRITING & RHETORIC EMPHASIS
36 Credits
The writing & rhetoric studies 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 and technical writing, teaching, 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 while they also complete some of the pre-healthcare coursework, practice their writing skills, and study the human condition through narrative.

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 - 9
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.

CLASSES
Classes are small; 18-22 students in all upper level courses, despite the fact that we have some 165 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 and professional & technical writing in Ireland. We develop strong global perspectives within our courses and encourage and support studying abroad.

THE BOOK CLUB
The student-run Book 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.

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
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

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

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.

- 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. Hebbeler 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).

“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)