INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The English major introduces students to literature in English—in all its variety through time and across cultures, trains them in methods and theories of literary and cultural analysis, shows them how to pursue research and conduct arguments, and continually sharpens their writing skills.

Students who have completed a bachelor’s degree in English should be able to research and write with skill and confidence, understand how words and stories work in their professional lives and in society as well as in books, and reflect with insight on their experience of literature.

CORE COURSES

A small core of classes prepares students to follow their interests in elective courses. Three (ENGLISH 45A, 45B, and 45C) offer an intensive survey of writing in English through its history, including British, American, and global literatures. Together with a required course on Shakespeare and a lower-division research seminar (ENGLISH 90), the sequence offers tools that students can use as they develop their own focus. A set of electives and an upper-division seminar (ENGLISH 190 or ENGLISH H195A/B), including one course that focuses on literature before 1800, refine students’ interpretive skills and show them how to carry out a program of research and more extended writing.

“...The kinds of intimate attention to form and relation that we practice in reading literature is the prerequisite for an attentive, which is to say an ethical, presence in the world...”

– Billy Kieschnick-Mulligan, English major

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Enroll in Berkeley Connect, a one-unit mentorship and discussion course.
• Apply to the honors seminar course (ENGLISH H195A/B) and conduct long-term literary research to develop your own honors thesis while working closely with faculty.
• Join an English department-sponsored student group.
• Consider adding a Creative Writing Minor to your education.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
<th>SECOND YEAR</th>
<th>THIRD YEAR</th>
<th>FOURTH YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explore your major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meet with the major advisor about prerequisites courses and declaring the major.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use your six English Department electives to explore your special interests.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Meet with your major and college advisors to map out a plan of study.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explore study abroad opportunities with the major advisor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Apply to a Creative Writing workshop.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Look through the English Department course offerings and take a class that excites you!</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete remaining core requirements (49A, 49B, 49C, 90, and Shakespeare).</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to your major advisor about the optional Honors Program.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Connect and build community</strong></td>
<td><strong>Connect with English peers, faculty, and graduate student mentors by enrolling in Berkeley Connect.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend English Department events such as poetry readings, lectures by visiting professors, performances, social events, career panels, and more.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Join a student-run publication such as the Berkeley Poetry Review, The Daily Cal, Cal Literature &amp; Arts Magazine (CLAM), or Berkeley Fiction Review (the Berkeley Fiction Review offers a DeCal course each semester).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Attend an English Undergraduate Association and/or a Students of Color Emerging in English event to learn more about the major and interact with students and faculty.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Get to know English Department professors and graduate students in office hours.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reconnect with professors and graduate students who mattered most to you during your time at Berkeley.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Discover your passions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Talk to professors and advisors about your aspirations and intellectual interests.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Be bold: take an English course on an unfamiliar period, author, or topic.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Undertake an independent study with an English Department professor.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships to learn about student programs and resources.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Explore new subjects with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply for the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Explore your interests in a student-run DeCal course.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Apply for prizes.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participate in cutting-edge research projects through UARAP and SURF-SMART.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Build skills and confidence for a successful internship/job search by attending Career Center workshops.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Take a Sophomore Seminar.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Look into minoring in Creative Writing.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Engage locally and globally</strong></td>
<td><strong>Learn about service and leadership opportunities with the Public Service Center and LEAD Center.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Satisfy your American Cultures requirement with an ACES community-based project.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend a reading through the Holloway Series in Poetry to hear poetry performed by contemporary poets.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Discover hundreds of organizations at the Calapalooza student activities fair.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Apply to be a BUILD Literacy Mentor to tutor local Berkeley elementary school students.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Explore study abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Plan when and where you want to study abroad, and prepare your application.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Attend a reading through the Berkeley Poetry Review, The Daily Cal, Cal Literature &amp; Arts Magazine (CLAM), or Berkeley Fiction Review (the Berkeley Fiction Review offers a DeCal course each semester).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reflect and plan your future</strong></td>
<td><strong>Use the Yearly Planner to help guide your career path during your time at Cal.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Build skills and confidence for a successful internship/job search by attending Career Center workshops.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Practice your interviewing skills through Career Center workshops.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Learn about different career fields and how your skill set can be used in all of them.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Join Handshake to find Berkeley-specific internship opportunities and career development workshops.</strong></td>
<td><strong>View career data for Berkeley English graduates to get a sense of possible next steps.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Conduct informational interviews with people in careers you are curious about.</strong></td>
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**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

**Jobs and Employers**

- Account Manager, Drogas
- Attorney-Advisor, US DOT
- Business Development Assoc., UN
- Content Writer, Lucid Software
- Copyeditor, Vogue
- Detective, Vacaville Police Dept.
- Global Head of Enterprise Tech., BoFa
- Healthcare Reporter, LA Times
- Instr., San Joaquin Delta College
- Literary Art Magazine (CLAM)
- MFA.
- Partners Marketing Mgr., Google
- Professor, Yale Department of English
- Prog., World Inst. on Disability
- Psychologist, Oakes Child Ctr.
- Reporter, The NY Times
- Research Analyst, Capital Group
- Senior Marketing Mgr., Amazon
- Social Worker, Veterans H. Admin.
- Software Engineer, Chegg
- Sr. Fundraising Mgr., Wikimedia
- Teacher, Tilden Preparatory School
- Technical Writer, Workday

**Graduate Programs**

- Archaeology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Creative Writing
- Education
- English Literature
- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine
- Psychology

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Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.