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, 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.

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.

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
ENGLISH Bachelor of Arts

**FIRST YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
  - Meet with your major and college advisors to map out a plan of study.
  - Look through the English Department Course offerings and take a class that excites you.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Connect with English peers, faculty, and graduate student mentors by enrolling in Berkeley Connect.
  - 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.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Talk to professors and advisors about your aspirations and intellectual interests.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships to learn about student programs and resources.
  - Explore your interests in a student-run DeCal course.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Learn about service and leadership opportunities with the Public Service Center and LEAD Center.
  - Discover hundreds of organizations at the Calpaloosa student activities fair.
  - Explore study abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

**SECOND YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Meet with the major advisor about prerequisite courses and declaring the major.
  - Explore study abroad opportunities with the major advisor.
  - Complete remaining core requirements (49A, 49B, 49C, and Shakespeare). 
- **Connect and build community**
  - Attend English Department events such as poetry readings, lectures by visiting professors, performances, social events, career panels, and more.
  - Get to know English Department professors and graduate students in office hours.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Be bold: take an English course on an unfamiliar period, author, or topic.
  - Explore new subjects with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
  - Apply for prizes.
  - Take a Sophomore Seminar.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Satisfy your American Cultures requirement with an ACES community-based project.
  - Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
  - Plan when and where you want to study abroad, and prepare your application.

**THIRD YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Use your six English Department electives to explore your special interests.
  - Apply to a Creative Writing workshop.
  - Talk to your major advisor about the optional Honors Program.
  - Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Join a student-run publication such as the Berkeley Poetry Review, The Daily Cal, Cal Literature & Arts Magazine (CLAM), or Berkeley Fiction Review (the Berkeley Fiction Review offers a DeCal course each semester).
- **Discover your passions**
  - Undertake an independent study with an English Department professor.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply for the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
  - Participate in cutting edge research projects through the URAP and SMART programs.
  - Look into minoring in Creative Writing.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend a reading through the Holloway Series in Poetry to hear poetry performed by contemporary poets.
  - Apply to be a BUILD Literacy Mentor to tutor local Berkeley elementary school students.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements; complete a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Enhance your capstone research experience by taking classes that provide context for your research project in ENGLISH 190 or ENGLISH H195AB.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Reconnect with professors and graduate students who mattered most to you during your time at Berkeley.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Consider applying to the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prize for Undergraduate Research.
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Submit a literary analysis essay to The Folio, the undergraduate academic journal, or apply to be on the editorial staff.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Explore post-grad service such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Look at fellowship and gap year opportunities.

**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 Artst. Asst., ICM Partners
- Nurse, UCSF
- Partner Marketing Mgr., Google
- Professor, Yale Department of English
- Proj. Coord., 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

Examples gathered from the Career Destinations Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

All opportunities listed above are available to two-year students and four-year students.

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