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.

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.

“\nThe 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.\n”

– Billy Kieschnick-Mulligan, English major
# Design Your Journey

## 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.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Connect with English peers, faculty, and graduate student mentors by enrolling in Berkeley Connect.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships to learn about student programs and resources.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Learn about service and leadership opportunities with the Public Service Center and LEAD Center.
  - Study abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Use the Yearly Planner to help guide your career path during your time at Cal.

### Second Year
- **Explore your major**
  - Meet with the major advisor about prerequisite courses and declaring the major.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Attend English Department events such as poetry readings, lectures by visiting professors, performances, social events, career panels, and more.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Talk to professors and advisors about your aspirations and intellectual interests.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Satisfy your American Cultures requirement with an ACES community-based project.
  - Attend a reading through the Holloway Series in Poetry to hear poetry performed by contemporary poets.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Build skills and confidence for a successful internship/job search by attending Career Center workshops.

### Third Year
- **Explore your major**
  - Use your six English Department electives to explore your special interests.
  - Apply to a Creative Writing workshop.
- **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.
  - Plan a senior thesis or project? Apply for an URAP and SURF-SMART research project in ENGLISH 190 or ENGLISH H195A/B.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend an Undergraduate Association event to learn more about the major and interact with students and faculty.
  - Meet with the major advisor about the optional Honors Program.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Practice your interviewing skills through Career Center workshops.
  - View career data for Berkeley English graduates to get a sense of possible next steps. Conduct informational interviews with people in careers you are curious about.

### Fourth Year
- **Explore your major**
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements; complete a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Reconnect with professors and graduate students who mattered most to you during your time at Berkeley.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Complete remaining major, college, and campus requirements with the LEAD Center workshops.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Consider applying to the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prize for Undergraduate Research.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend and participate in the Alternative Breaks Program.
- **Reflect and plan your future**
  - Practice your Networking skills by attending events that get you talking to Berkeley alumni.

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### Jobs and Employers
- **Account Manager, Drogal**
- **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**
- **Instructor, San Joaquin Delta College**
- **Litigation Asst., O’Melveny & Myers**
- **Medical Sales Representative, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**
- **Nurse, UCSF Medical Center**
- **President, The New York 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.