English, BS, BA

Emphases: Creative Writing; English Teaching; Literary Studies; Professional and Technical Writing
Department: English Department
College: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The Department of English is the largest arts and humanities unit on the USU campus and features a wide variety of courses that cover a broad curriculum in literature, creative writing, English education, technical writing, and more. With its small class sizes and nationally published faculty members, the English Department helps students develop skills in analysis, production, and understanding of texts in the English language. Students learn to write, think, and communicate effectively in a technologically and culturally complex world. Students develop skills in the areas most valued by employers, including critical thinking, teamwork, and oral and written communication, which will prepare them to enter into a wide range of career options.

Because the English Department is home to faculty that are heavily involved in research, students are provided with numerous opportunities to pursue undergraduate research projects and creative projects with individual attention from professors.

Students receive a **BS** by completing all required courses in the major. To receive a **BA**, students must also gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages.

Distance Education

The BS in English with an emphasis in English teaching is available through USU's Regional Campuses and Distance Education program.

The only emphasis of study available to students at the Regional Campuses is English Teaching. Students planning to complete an emphasis in Creative Writing, Literary Studies, or Professional and Technical Writing must attend classes at the Logan Campus.

Career Options

With a degree in English, students may be qualified for a variety of careers, including:

- Teacher
- Author
- Editor
- Publishing
- Researcher
- Law
- Administrative assistant
- Copywriter
- Writer
- Journalist
- Public relations and marketing
- Advertising
- Reporter
- Management trainee
- Mass media assistant

Each emphasis in the English Department also has its own specific job interests:

Literary Studies Emphasis

- Information analyst
- Freelance writing

- Press aid
- Editor

Professional and Technical Writing Emphasis

- Technical writer
- Grant/proposal writer
- Web master
- Multimedia specialist
- Documentation specialist
- Manual/brochure creator
- Design specialist

English Teaching Emphasis

- Secondary education

Creative Writing Emphasis

- Author
- Book critic
- Editor
- Journalist
- Filmmaker
- Reporter

Career Services provides counseling and information on hundreds of job and internship opportunities and even helps students apply and interview.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

In addition to Utah State University's admissions requirements, the English Department has additional requirements:

- **Freshmen:** New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.
- **Transfer Students:** Transfer students from other institutions and students transferring from other USU majors need a 2.75 total GPA for admission to this major.
- **Professional and Technical Writing Emphasis:** Pass ENGL 1120 or the equivalent exam (grammar)
- **STEP Requirements (English teaching emphasis only):** In order to be accepted into STEP, students must go through an application process, which includes the following:
    - Complete 60 semester credits with a minimum GPA of 2.75
    - Complete certain core courses (see department for more information)
    - Complete a speech and hearing test
    - Pass the Teacher Education Writing Exam
    - Provide an unofficial copy of your transcript
    - Pass a criminal background check (this should be done one semester before submitting the application)

International students have additional admissions requirements.

Major Requirements

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Science**.

Click here to see course requirements for the **Bachelor of Arts**.

Contact

Advising

All new USU students participate in a New Student Orientation program, where they receive detailed information about major requirements, registering for classes, and other important advising information.

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Advisor

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

Society for Technical Communication: This is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing technical communication. STC provides an opportunity to network among students and professionals. The society brings professionals to speak to members and offers open forums for students to learn more about particular professions. Through the society's efforts, students gain professional relationships which provide access to job opportunities and internships.

Sigma Tau Delta: As the honor society for English majors, Sigma Tau Delta allows their members to have the opportunity to share their love of literature and linguistics with like-minded peers, participate in rewarding activities, and be recognized for their accomplishments. The members can also apply, or in some cases instantly qualify, for one or more of the society's numerous awards and scholarships.

Labs, Centers, Research

With the second oldest undergraduate research program in the nation, USU offers students a wide range of opportunities to gain hands-on research experience. The Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities program allows students to apply for grants and receive funding. USU's Honors Program prepares students for excellent graduate programs by helping them build relationships with professors, participate in research projects, take smaller, more intensive classes, and develop leadership skills.

Learning Suite: The Learning Suite is comprised of two student computer labs: the Teaching Lab and the Open-Access Lab. The Learning Suite strives to foster an environment where communication can develop between students, instructors, and their audiences. It supports communication as any expression through the medians of written text, graphics, sound, and still and moving images, and updates its technology to provide as much support as possible for these forms of communication.

Usability Research and Evaluation Laboratory: The Usability Research and Evaluation Lab allows for hands-on experience with usability testing for both classroom projects and outside contractors.

Writing Center: The Writing Center provides tutoring services for students across the university with either face-to-face or online help, allowing them to implement and improve upon concepts introduced in class. Students can work as tutors in the writing center which will help them gain experience in writing. Graduate instructors in the English Department are required to work two hours each week in the Writing Center.