

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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## Programs of the Department

*Interpretation. Writing. Critical thinking. Creativity. A degree in English helps you to develop skills that never go out of style or out of demand.*

The study of English offers students a wide-angle view of ideas and culture through habits of mind borne of sensitive reading of literary texts, of careful attention to language, of energetic discussion with faculty and peers and of intelligent reflection in research and imaginative writing. Students in English can tailor the course of study to their interests by pursuing a track in Literature or Writing or a concentration in Secondary Education. Students can also pursue minors in English or Creative Writing. In addition to a deep commitment to the values of a humanities education, the English department prizes small class sizes, and English faculty value their teaching above all else and encourage learning through collaboration and practice. The English department also supports diverse and inclusive student learning.

Each English major is assigned a faculty adviser, who assists the student in creating a program of study best suited to the student's interests and goals. The flexibility of the study of English allows the student a wide choice of courses within the department and possibilities for coordinating a program with another academic department.

The Department of English oversees the Master's in Professional Writing program, offering unique post-baccalaureate opportunities for English majors and minors interested in pursuing careers in creative writing, technical writing, editing, public relations, and teaching writing at the community-college level. Prof. Geoffrey Becker, 410-704-5196, coordinates the program.

## Transfer Credit Policy

The Department of English accepts English credits from accredited colleges and universities. However, to meet Core Curriculum requirements, students must either present 3 transfer credits in a college-level composition course, with a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher, or earn a grade equivalent of 2.00 or higher in ENGL 102 or ENGL 190 at Towson University. Students registering in the department's major and minor programs must complete a minimum of 12 units in Department of English offerings at Towson University.

## Advanced Placement and Credit For Prior Learning

The department awards units through the Advanced Placement Program of the university. Also, a selected number of entering freshmen are placed in ENGL 190 rather than ENGL 102. The department offers units for most courses, other than upper-level writing courses, through the Credit for Prior Learning Program. Students applying for credit under this program complete an examination, an interview and at least one paper in the area.

## English Honors and Activities

The English Department participates in the Honors Program in coordination with the Honors College. The department offers honors

sections of introductory courses for students admitted to the Honors College.

Departmental honors are designated on a graduate's transcript and diploma when a student successfully completes ENGL 499. Students pursuing departmental honors are not required to be members of the Honors College. Departmental honors are distinct from Latin honors (cum laude, etc.) and from enrollment in the Honors College.

English majors with qualifying GPAs (at least 3.5 in the major and 3.25 overall) can complete an honors thesis under the direction of an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in the English Department. In exceptional cases, the Honors Thesis Coordinator and department chair may give permission for an English department Lecturer to direct an honors thesis. Typically, seniors complete an independent study (ENGL 490) before taking ENGL 499, the thesis course. ENGL 499 fulfills the capstone requirement, taking the place of a capstone seminar or internship. Theses may consist of creative or scholarly writing. Students who are interested in pursuing departmental honors should consult the Department Chair or the Honors Thesis Coordinator during their junior year.

## Departmental Awards and Scholarships

The English department awards a number of prizes with annually varying monetary value. The Charlotte Koomjohn Award is a scholarship for a senior literature track major with the highest cumulative GPA. The W. Frank Guess Award, shared with the Women's and Gender Studies Department, is for the major with a GPA of 3.5 or better and a writing portfolio judged to be the best of all entries. The English and the History departments select the winner of the Sander Distinguished Presidential Scholarship, a renewable prize for full scholarship and fees.

Three other prizes include the Margery Harriss Great Starts Award, given for the best essays written in ENGL 102; the Three Arts Club of Homeland award for fiction and poetry; and the Gerry Buettner prize for the English major judged by the faculty to be the best of the graduating class.

Lambda Iota Tau is the national literary honor society with a chapter in the department, and the English Club is an informal association of majors, minors and professors who meet to exchange ideas about literature.

Students have opportunities to publish their work in Towson University's literary magazine *Grub Street* and in *Discourse: The English Academic Journal of Towson University*.

## Double Major Program

Students who major in one of the other programs of the university but feel a strong interest in language, literature or writing are urged to explore the value of completing a double major with their adviser or with the chair of the Department of English.

## Admission Requirements for the Combined Bachelor's in English and Master's in Humanities

### Undergraduate Admission Requirements

For admission to this track on the undergraduate level, the student must apply to the Director of the Master's in Humanities program before the second term of the junior year and meet the following criteria:

- Completion of, or current enrollment in, 60 units (may include transfer credits)
- Declaration of an English major in the undergraduate Literature track
- Completion of, or current enrollment in, at least 12 units of the English major, 6 of which should be ENGL 300 and ENGL 319, ENGL 313, ENGL 315 or ENGL 316.
- Achievement of an overall GPA of 3.30 or better and a GPA in English of 3.30 or better
- Demonstration of a high degree of proficiency in academic writing, to be determined by the Director of the Humanities program from the student's Humanities program admissions materials

## **Admission Requirements for the Combined Bachelor's in English and Master's in Professional Writing**

### **Undergraduate Admission Requirements**

For admission to this track on the undergraduate level, the student must apply to the director of the Professional Writing Program before the second term of the junior year and meet the following criteria:

- Completion of or current enrollment in 60 units (may include transfer credits)
- Declaration of an English major in the undergraduate Writing track
- Completion of (or current enrollment in) at least 12 units of the English major (3 of these units should fulfill the university's Advanced Writing Seminar requirement with a class from the English department: ENGL 313, ENGL 315 or ENGL 316)
- Achievement of an overall GPA of 3.30 or better and a GPA in English of 3.30 or better
- Demonstration of a high degree of proficiency in writing, to be determined by the director of the Professional Writing Program from the student's PRWR master's program admission materials
- Major in English (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/english/english>)
- Major in English - Secondary Education Concentration (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/english/english-secondary-education>)
- Combined Bachelor's in English and Master's in Professional Writing (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/english/combined-bachelors-english-masters-professional-writing>)
- Minor in Creative Writing (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/english/creative-writing-minor>)
- Minor in English (<http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/english/english-minor>)