

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Liberal Arts Building 4210

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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.

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.

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. Michael Downs, 410-704-3695, coordinates the program.

## 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 scholarships and prizes with annually varying monetary value: the Charlotte Koomjohn Award; the W. Frank Guess Award; the Sander Distinguished Presidential Scholarship; the Margery Harriss Great Starts Award; the Three Arts Club of Homeland award for fiction and poetry; the Robert M. Ward Scholarship in Creative Writing; and the Hannah Nathan Rosen Writing Prize.

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

## Admission

### Admission Requirements for the Accelerated 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 TU's Advanced Writing Seminar requirement with a class from the English department: ENGL 313 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.

## Majors

- Major in English
- Major in English - Secondary Education Concentration
- Accelerated B.S/M.S. in English and Professional Writing

## Minors

- Minor in Creative Writing
- Minor in English

## Faculty

*Professors:* Peter Baker Jr., Geoffrey Becker, Frances Botkin, Christopher Cain, Michael Downs (Graduate Program Director), Erin Fehskens (Chairperson), H. George Hahn, Leslie Harrison, Harvey Lillywhite, Jennifer Mott-Smith, Dana Phillips, Joel Slotkin, Zosha Stuckey

*Associate Professors:* Katherine Attié, Matt Dowell, Sarah Gunning, Jacob Hovind, Adam Jabbur, Halcyon Lawrence, Donnie McMahan, Salvatore Pappalardo (Assistant Chair), Jacqueline Shin, Jeannie Vanasco, Jonathan Vincent

*Assistant Professors:* Jianfen Chen, Carrie Grant, Sherita Roundtree

*Lecturers:* Thomas Bechtold, Alan Britt, Gregory Butler, Joe Davis, Steven Heaney, Catherine Hearn, Ariana Mashilker, Tim Nelson, Carol Pippen, Lauren Reding

*Lecturer II:* Michelle Barnett, Sharon Becker, Joseph Capista III, Jack Carneal, Mildred Landrum-Hesser, Adeana Lopez, Kevin Murphy, Reiner Prochaska, Andrew Reiner, Benjamin Warner