

English

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Program Description

The English Department at Dixie State University strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English, master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays. DSU literature courses seek to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the unique value of literary expression as an aesthetic form that challenges the senses, the intellect, and the imagination. Students also learn to appreciate the complex relationship between the aesthetic and intellectual aspects of literature and the culture and time in which it was produced. Writing courses instruct students in the standards and effective use of written and verbal communication.

English majors at Dixie State can pursue two degree options: the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or the Bachelor of Science (B.S.). These degrees provide students with a broad, liberal arts foundation that will serve them well as citizens, employees, and graduate students. In addition to a set of core courses that all majors take, students choose from four curricular emphases—Literary Studies, Creative Writing, Professional and Technical Writing, and English Education.

What is the Study of English?

Studying English will help students understand the cultural, functional, and creative aspects of the English language. Students of English learn how to use language to inform, persuade, and entertain.

In English studies, students read, analyze, and compose technical and literary works. In addition, the field of English also includes the study of literature and literary criticism, writing across disciplines, critical thinking and logic, argument and persuasion, creative writing, and academic research.

English is never studied as an isolated discipline. Studying literature allows students to contemplate culture, history, philosophy, theology, psychology, and more. Studying technical writing allows students to contemplate business and commerce, science, politics, public relations, and more. English Education includes study of the theories and practice of secondary level teaching, and Creative Writing helps students discover and hone their own methods and modes of self-expression and develop written material for a variety of publication outlets.

Admission

Any Dixie State student in good academic standing can declare English as a major. In order to complete an English Education baccalaureate degree, students will need to apply and be accepted to the DSU Secondary Education program. Students need to maintain frequent contact with their English advisor for proper academic planning.

Clubs

The English Department sponsors the Dixie State University Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Dr. Ami Comeford is the faculty advisor.

Course Prefixes

- ENGL

Minors

An academic minor is an attribute of a baccalaureate degree, not an entity by itself, and can only be awarded at the same time a student graduates with a bachelor's degree in a different discipline. Students do not need to declare a minor prior to submitting a graduation application, but the Minor Worksheet must be included with the student's graduation application. A minor may not be added to a previously awarded degree. Students must complete the minor requirements prior to or concurrent with completion of their bachelor's degree requirements. Minors are not available with associate's degrees.

Students may not declare a minor that is in the same department as their major. *Example:* English majors cannot declare any English minor.

Integrated Studies majors may not have an academic minor in the same department as either of their two declared emphases. *Example:* An Integrated Studies major with emphases in English and Spanish cannot receive a minor in either English or Spanish.

In order to be awarded a teaching minor, a student must be awarded a teaching major at the same time.

Previous Secondary Education graduates do not need a minor to receive an endorsement; they just need to complete the requirements listed at the Utah State Office of Education and submit the endorsement application.

Degrees & Minors

- Bachelor of Arts/Science in English – Creative Writing Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_english__creative_writing_emphasis)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in English – English Education Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_english__english_education_emphasis)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in English – Literary Studies Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_english__literary_studies_emphasis)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in English – Professional & Technical Writing Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_english)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - English Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__english_emphasis)
- Minor in Creative Writing (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/minor_in_creative_writing)
- Minor in English Education (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/minor_in_english_education_)
- Minor in General English (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/minor_in_general_english)
- Minor in Professional & Technical Writing (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/minor_in_professional__technical_writing)
- Certificate in Professional Writing (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/english/certificate-in-professional-writing)

Career Information - Creative Writing

Career Strategies

Creative Writing students can enhance learning and career opportunities in the following ways:

- Select minor and/or elective coursework in a complementary discipline, such as literary studies, technical writing, history, or theater
- Create a portfolio of writing that demonstrates analytical and creative writing skills
- Develop strong grammar and language skills, including a second language
- Submit work for publication
- Create a portfolio of writing that demonstrates creative and analytical writing skills
- Consider graduate school: higher degrees will increase pay and may increase opportunities
- Participate in English-sponsored organizations, such as *The Southern Quill* staff or Sigma Tau Delta

Career Opportunities *

Career opportunities for Creative Writing students vary widely—from teaching, advertising, public relations, or editing to being a fiction or non-fiction writer, or writing for publication in a variety of media, including film, television, and periodicals. The job outlook will depend on each student's particular career path and skill level. English majors can expect that whatever field they choose, the job outlook is good for anyone who can write and communicate well.

Job Outlook *

Employment of writers and authors is expected to grow at a slower than average rate of 2% between 2014 and 2024, but online publication and services have demand for writers and authors with Web or multimedia experience.

Salary Range *

The median annual salary for experienced, successful writers and authors was \$60,250 in May 2015, but varies widely by genre and individual expertise.

Career Information - English Education

Career Strategies

English Education students can enhance learning and career opportunities in the following ways:

- Earn certification to teach additional age groups and additional subjects
- Consider graduate school: higher degrees will increase pay and may increase opportunities
- Seek opportunities for leadership roles, particularly working in advisory or administrative roles
- Volunteer to work with youth groups such as summer camps or Big Brother/Big Sister
- Participate in English-sponsored organizations, such as *The Southern Quill* staff or Sigma Tau Delta
- Present research at undergraduate research conferences

Career Opportunities *

Students who earn a bachelor's degree in English Education will likely go on to teach English in secondary schools. Certified English teachers have opportunities to work in administration, higher education, private learning centers, test preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, curriculum development, academic advising, international education, information and library science, distance learning education, research, and tutoring. Students may also choose to earn teaching certificates in other disciplines.

Job Outlook *

From 2014 to 2024, employment of English secondary teachers will increase by 6%. Demand for English teachers at the secondary level will grow especially in rural and lower socio-economic urban areas.

Salary Range *

The median annual wage for a secondary teacher with a bachelor's degree was \$57,200 in May 2015, though that can change depending on geographic location. Teachers with a master's degree can earn considerably more.

Career Information - Literary Studies

Career Strategies

Students in Literary Studies can enhance learning and career opportunities in the following ways:

- Select minor and/or elective coursework in a complementary discipline, such as creative or technical writing, history, or multi-cultural communication
- Create a portfolio of writing that demonstrates analytical and creative writing skills
- Develop strong public speaking skills
- Develop strong grammar and language skills, including a second language
- Consider graduate school: higher degrees will increase pay and may increase opportunities
- Participate in English-sponsored organizations, such as *The Southern Quill* staff or Sigma Tau Delta

Career Opportunities *

Professions across the spectrum of employment need people who think and communicate well. Literary Studies will prepare graduates to effectively analyze texts, interpret abstract ideas, and synthesize research. Additionally, Literary Studies students will be able to think analytically and creatively about historical and cultural contexts, skills employers find attractive in a global market.

While teaching is an obvious career choice, it is not the only one for English majors who study literature. The Literary Studies emphasis will prepare students for a career or further study in a variety of areas, including education, film, advertising, public relations, public service, media, library science, research, publishing, editing, global communication, multi-cultural education, cultural anthropology, and behavioral science.

Job Outlook *

Career opportunities for Literary Studies students vary widely—from teaching or advertising, to editing or law. The job outlook will depend on each student's particular career path. English majors can expect that whatever field they choose, the job outlook is good for those who can write and communicate well.

Salary Range *

The average annual salary for English majors is between \$40,000 and \$50,000 with the highest paid English majors pursuing graduate studies in law and business.

Career Information - Professional & Technical Writing

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework in English, Professional and Technical Writing students can enhance their career opportunities in the following ways:

- Minor or take classes in science, information technology, or some other field that will complement the English degree and career interests
- Gain experience in a specialized field such as web design, medicine, or engineering
- Develop strong grammar and language skills, including a second language
- Become familiar with new media technology
- Find opportunities to write: intern for a corporation or volunteer for a non-profit organization
- Consider graduate school: higher degrees will increase pay and may increase opportunities

Career Opportunities *

Because the study of Professional & Technical writing helps students organize, develop, and present ideas in clear and creative ways, technical writers are in high demand in a variety of fields, including business, public service, law, marketing, journalism, public relations, and teaching.

The Professional & Technical Writing emphasis will prepare students for a career in technical writing and editing, which can be applied in a variety of technical fields, including science, health professions, grant and proposal writing, software documentation, information technology, corporate communications and training, mechanical communication, retail, engineering, and more.

Job Outlook *

The Bureau of Labor statistics reports an anticipated 10% growth in jobs for technical writers from 2014 to 2024. The demand for technical writers increases with technological and scientific advances, so job outlook for a skilled technical writer is very good.

Salary Range *

In May 2015, the bottom 10% of technical writers earned less than \$41,610 annually, and the top 10% earned more than \$112,220. The median annual salary was \$70,240.

* From the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015