

## What is English?

Students majoring in English have the opportunity to study literature, literary criticism, literary history, linguistics, critical theory, and creative writing. The program offers many small classes to encourage class discussion and active participation. Professors teach most of the required and elective courses; some sections are taught by lecturers and advanced graduate students. English majors write in a variety of contexts and have the opportunity to use one of the best libraries in the world for secondary, electronic, and archival studies.

## Study Abroad

English majors are encouraged to study in other countries, before their senior year, to increase understanding of English language and literatures from diverse cultural perspectives. Advanced planning facilitates academic success and progress. See the Learning Abroad Center Web site at [www.umabroad.umn.edu](http://www.umabroad.umn.edu) for more information.

## Civic Engagement through Service Learning

The English department supports an engaged, civic-oriented curriculum and teaches the critical skills of reading and writing in the context of community involvement and real public spheres by incorporating community and service-learning components into literature and composition classes.

Students can work as interns at local organizations, neighborhood houses, alternative schools, after-school programs, and in the grassroots/nonprofit sector of the greater Twin Cities area. While underscoring the relevance of literary studies to contemporary life, these hands-on experiences prepare students not only for careers and professions, but also for an on-going engagement in the civic life of their communities. Students can learn more from the University of Minnesota Literacy Lab web site and from their major adviser.

## What are the major requirements?

Go to [www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html](http://www.catalogs.umn.edu/programs.html) and select “Undergraduate majors.”

## How do I declare an English major?

You will be required to declare a major by the time you have completed 60 credits.

1. Talk with someone from the department: an adviser, a professor, or a teaching assistant, to learn more about the major and its requirements.
2. When you have decided upon an English major, meet with the appropriate person from the department to complete a Major Program form.
3. Bring a copy of the form to your CLA student community.
4. If you decide to change your major, contact your CLA student community to learn more about your new major’s declaration process.

## For more information:

### About the English major:

Undergraduate Advising  
227 Lind Hall  
(612) 625-4592  
<http://english.cla.umn.edu/>

### About CLA requirements, graduation, and other information about majors:

CLA Society and Culture  
Student Community  
122 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-2549  
<http://sandc.class.umn.edu/>

or

CLA Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Program  
19 Johnston Hall  
(612) 625-2300  
<http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk/>  
[mlk@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:mlk@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About careers, internships, and community learning opportunities in this major and others:

Career and Community  
Learning Center  
135 Johnston Hall  
(612) 624-7577  
[www.cclc.umn.edu/](http://www.cclc.umn.edu/)  
[cclc@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:cclc@class.cla.umn.edu)

### About graduation with honors:

CLA Honors Division  
20 Nicholson  
(612) 624-5522  
[www.honors.class.umn.edu/](http://www.honors.class.umn.edu/)  
[honors@class.cla.umn.edu](mailto:honors@class.cla.umn.edu)

## What can I do with a major in English?

### Skills

English majors develop skills that are applicable to a wide variety of careers. These skills include:

- Verbal, written, and visual communication skills
- Ability to research, read, and synthesize information efficiently
- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Creative writing skills
- Ability to work well with diverse groups

### Employment

Common areas of employment for this major include but are not limited to:

- Arts and Entertainment—announcing, creative writing, managing, development
- Media—journalistic writing, editing, web composition/design, management
- Education—teaching, research, admissions, advising, student affairs
- Government—public information, campaigns, research
- Business—technical writing, administration, marketing, human resources, sales, consulting, recruiting
- Public Relations and Advertising—copy writing, corporate public affairs, lobbying
- Nonprofit—fundraising, grant writing, programming, management

The department has a career program with alumni speakers one or two times per year. Contact the Undergraduate Office for current information. See also “Career Connections” at <http://english.cla.umn.edu/ugrad/careerconnections.php>

Graduates in English find satisfying careers in the fields listed above, among many other opportunities often focused on the art of communication. Internships give students opportunities to explore many of these careers and gain invaluable experience for future jobs. See <http://english.cla.umn.edu/ugrad/careeradvising.php> for additional information about and links to career resources, service-learning opportunities, awards for English majors, department faculty, graduate and professional studies, academic advising and much more.

### Remember!

You have not declared a major until you have:

- completed a Major Program form with your major adviser,
- filed a copy with the major department,
- and filed a copy with your CLA student community.

**Don't forget: keep a copy for yourself!**