

English

B.A. Degree M.A. Degree

"Re-vision — the act of looking back, of seeing with fresh eyes, of entering an old text from a new critical direction — is for all of us more than a chapter in cultural history: it is an act of survival."

— Adrienne Rich

The English department is one of the university's largest departments. In addition to its majors, the department serves many other students who take English courses to improve their writing, to develop a minor or double major field, or to pursue interests in some aspect of literature, language, or creative writing. For information about the Master of Arts in English degree contact the English Department office.

Literature

After a core of required courses, students will follow programs leading to a major in English and American literature. Literature is the field most frequently chosen by students combining fields of study in an interdisciplinary major — for example, literature and sociology, literature and history, literature and art, literature and psychology.

Creative Writing

An extensive program in Creative Writing is offered in the department. Sequences of courses are available in fiction, poetry, and script writing (stage-screen-TV). In addition, there are individual courses in personal essay, fiction and nonfiction writing. At Sonoma State University, creative writing students receive individual attention from instructors who are all published writers. Small classes provide an opportunity for personal guidance and close contact between students and faculty.

The English Department publishes the following professional and student publications: Virginia Woolf Miscellany, ZAUM, and Volt, A Magazine of the Arts. Students wishing to participate in the production of these publications should contact the English department office.

Students who wish to work in Creative Writing would select the Creative Writing Concentration in English. An M.A. in English with a creative thesis option is also offered by the department (after consultation with the Graduate Advisor and in coordination with the Graduate Committee).

Teacher Preparation (Single Subject Credential Program)

The English Department offers a program of study that satisfies the subject matter preparation requirement for entry into an English Teaching credential program and exempts the student from taking the Praxis II Subject Assessment Examination in English. Students in our graduate program who wish to specialize in the teaching of writing may focus on Rhetoric. Additionally, graduate students may apply for teaching opportunities within the graduate program.

Career Alternatives

Students who have majored in English work in business, public relations and advertising, broadcasting, journalism, law and government service, as well as in elementary, secondary and college teaching. In addition, students have worked as freelancers and in related fields such as publishing, magazine editing, advertising, public relations, technical writing, and the news media. All of these fields require an understanding of human motivation and of the conflicts and dilemmas that people face. Our graduates enter those fields able to express themselves clearly, logically, and with passion. They understand the relationship between language and authority.

Creative writing students have gone on to advanced degrees in the field and to teaching on the college level. Writers have published poetry, fiction and non-fiction and have seen their stage plays and screenplays produced. There are opportunities for writers in business, government, education, and non-profit organizations.

Check out our web site at www.sonoma.edu/English



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We hope this information will be helpful. Official requirements of all majors and programs are published in the Sonoma State University catalog. Sonoma State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and has a strong commitment to the principal of diversity. A member of the California State University