



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

English

Department of English & Journalism, College of Arts & Sciences

Major Program

The department offers majors in English (Literature and Language) and English Education. Students in both options can take a variety of courses in areas reflecting the major approaches that define the study of language and literature today. The study of *Forms* provides students precise language and concepts to understand how the structures of literature inform its meaning. The study of *Traditions* emphasizes the historical development of literature, particularly in terms of British and American literatures. *Language and Theory* courses give students the tools to precisely understand language and reflect on how texts come to have meaning in a variety of discourses, cultural contexts, and philosophical perspectives. *Social Justice* courses encourage students to explore how literary studies address issues of cultural power and politics. Examples would include the role of literature in responding to racism, gender identities, class conflict, and disability.

Literature and Language majors take an additional professional development course. English Education majors take courses in the teaching of language, literature, and writing. All majors complete their training in English with a senior seminar.

The department also offers minors in English, creative writing, and professional writing, and participates in interdisciplinary programs in women's studies and film studies.

Faculty

Department of English and Journalism courses are taught by faculty holding doctoral degrees from distinguished universities across the United States. All are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active student participation. They are also active scholars and have to their credit many books, chapters in books, articles, and scholarly presentations at professional conferences.

Scholarships

The department offers 13 scholarships for English majors. Ten are named after distinguished former faculty members in the department: two Paul Blackford Scholarships for achievement in the study of British literature, the Olive Fite Award for achievement in the study of American literature, the John Castle Award for an incoming first-year English major, the Irving Garwood Award for exceptional interest in Shakespeare, the Alfred V. Lindsey Scholarship in writing, the Beth M. Stiffler Scholarship in English education, and the Nai-Tung Ting and Wanninger Scholarships. Three others acknowledge generous donors: two Lila S. Linder Scholarships and the John Merrett Scholarship. The Department of English and Journalism "Scholar of the Year Award" honors the outstanding junior or senior in the department. Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-2189; Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at wiu.edu/Scholarship.

Honors in English

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In the English major, honors students take courses for honors credit and, as seniors, prepare an honors thesis under the direction of a department faculty member. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

Student Activities

The department offers two student societies for its English majors: (1) the WIU chapter of Sigma Tau Delta is our national honorary society, and (2) the student chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English is for those English majors who are planning careers in teaching. Our majors are also active in publishing our annual literary magazine, *Elements*, featuring works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction written by our students. A wide variety of student activities and organizations are available to all Western students. Learn more at <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

Special Opportunities

The department offers small classes with accessible faculty in historic Simpkins Hall. It also offers personalized professional advising, computerized writing classrooms, internship opportunities, in-house editing experience, a writing center, tutorial support, and an honors program. In addition, through a gift from the Fred E. and Lola Austin Case Endowment, the department sponsors a biannual Visiting Writers Series, which provides residencies for well-known authors throughout the country and greater opportunities for interaction between students and established writers.

After College

Our majors find that their degrees are extremely marketable. Our English Education graduates have been highly successful in finding teaching positions. English majors can choose from a variety of occupations, including abstract writer, advertising copywriter, bibliographer, copy editor, corporate communications specialist, editor, grant writer, librarian, public relations specialist, proofreader, researcher, author/screenwriter, technical writer, and (with additional skills or further education) lawyer, reporter, newscaster, literacy trainer, media planner, speech writer, news director, paralegal, press secretary, publisher, script reader, and translator/linguist. The list of possibilities is endless because people trained to read critically and write clearly are in demand everywhere in an increasingly demanding job market.

For More Information

The department welcomes visitors. Call the Department of English and Journalism chair at (309) 298-1103 or e-mail the adviser at E-Poulter@wiu.edu. You can also learn more about the department by visiting wiu.edu/english.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western Illinois University is a member of the NCAA and competes at the Division I level, sponsoring 20 intercollegiate sports in a broad-based athletics department. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees, room, and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.



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