

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

General Information

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Mission and Goals

The Department of English at Clayton State University offers both an undergraduate degree and courses in graduate degrees. At the undergraduate level, we have courses in the core curriculum; courses that comprise a major and minor in English; courses for middle level teacher education majors; and content courses for secondary education students. At the undergraduate level, we offer a major (Bachelor of Arts) and minor in English, and a badge in Professional Writing Proficiency. At the graduate level, we offer courses in the Master of Arts in Teaching English, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with an English concentration, and a Combined BA/MALS with an English concentration.

Our Core IMPACTS courses include first-year writing (ENGL 1101 English Composition I, ENGL 1102 English Composition II, and literature survey courses (2000-level literature courses). Students in the First-Year Writing program acquire skills that will increase their ability to write for a wide variety of professional and academic contexts. The course sequence offers instruction in writing processes, collaborative writing strategies, methods of organization, research skills, discourse conventions of Standard Written English, and rhetorical strategies. The literature survey courses introduce students to some of the greatest writings and ideas humankind has created, thus expanding their understanding of themselves and their cultures.

The Bachelor of Arts in English (120 hours) offers three concentrations—literature, writing, and secondary education. Throughout their coursework, students will learn to understand multiple perspectives, make connections across disciplines, and critically evaluate, interpret, and synthesize information from various sources. Furthermore, students will learn to read critically, write effectively, think analytically, work collaboratively, apply technology, and communicate clearly. Students will have the opportunity to practice these skills as they work with professors on research projects or as they participate in one of the internships hosted by our department in producing the *Cygnets* (our literary magazine), publishing *Connections* (our First-Year Writing textbook) or *The Vibrant Voice* (our newsletter), or writing for social media.

The English major prepares students for success in:

- graduate study (e.g. in English, library science, technical writing, and creative writing)
- professional schools (e.g. law, medical, divinity)
- careers in education, media, marketing, public relations, professional and technical writing, and many others

In short, a degree in English will give students the foundation to thrive, solve problems, and succeed in their civic, personal, and professional lives. It teaches students to be creative, imaginative thinkers and problem-solvers and equips them to participate effectively in an ever-changing, information-based society. The English department educates almost every student at Clayton State and cultivates a vital community for literature and writing on campus and in the community.

Honor Societies and Clubs

The Department of English houses the Alpha Nu Xi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. We also produce the *Cygnets*, a student-run literary magazine and *Connections*, the university's First-Year Writing textbook. The department sponsors several student writing awards.

Badge in Professional Writing Proficiency Requirements

The requirements for a Badge in Professional Writing Proficiency are:

- Passing a grammar/skills test
- Passing ENGL 3900 Professional & Tech. Writing
- Passing *either* ENGL 3910 Professional Editing or CMS 3710 Writing for Digital Media
- Passing *either* ENGL 3220 Argumentative Writing; ENGL 4320 Adv Creative Nonfiction Wrtg; or ENGL 3212 Advanced Composition: the first class is recommended for professions requiring more persuasive writing, the second is for professions requiring more informational writing, the third class emphasizes rhetorical and stylistic choices.

Programs

Baccalaureate Programs

- English, BA (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/english-ba/>)
- English, BA, Secondary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/english-secondary-education-ba/>)

Certificate Programs

- Creative Writing, Certificate (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/certificates/creative-writing/>)
- Professional Writing, Certificate (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/certificates/professional-writing/>)

Combined Degree Programs

- English, BA with Liberal Studies, MA Combined Degree (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/combined-ba-english-ma-liberal-studies/>)

Minor Programs

- English, Minor (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/english-minor/>)

Specialized Programs

- Badge in Professional Writing Proficiency (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/professionalwritingbadge/>)

Faculty

Brigitte F. Byrd
Matt Carter
Shannon Cochran

Jason Daniels
Cantice Greene
Sara Harwood
Mary R. Lamb
Michael Lindsay
Eugene Ngezem
Kathryn Pratt Russell
Amy D. Sanford
Matthew Sansbury
Patricia A. Smith
Robert Vaughan