

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

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Undergraduate Studies & Advising
Department of English
252 Bartlett Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
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www.umass.edu/english

Revised 10/14/08

University Advising Services and Community Networks

The Library Commons, Du Bois Library offers the **Writing Center** for walk-in, one-on-one conferences on any writing assignment and the **Learning Resource Center** offering walk-in peer tutoring in all subjects, and some study groups for selected courses. For more information go to www.umass.edu/learningcommons/.

The Bilingual Collegiate Program (BCP), 101 Wilder Hall, offers a number of services including a Mentor Program and a computer lab/study center. They also sponsor the ALANA Job Fair and career workshops along with assistance with resume building and interview skills. For more information go to www.umass.edu/bcp/.

The Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black and Other Minority Students (CCEBMS), 218 New Africa House, offers mentoring, personal counseling, and other services for African American, Asian American, Native American, Latino, Capar Verdean, and other students of color. For more information go to www.umass.edu/ccebms/.

Counseling and Assessment Services, 123 Berkshire House, offers professional psychologists, career development counselors, and psychotherapists especially for learning disability assistance. For more information go to www.umass.edu/counseling/.

Disability Services, 231 Whitmore, handles all arrangements for students and staff with special needs in the physical or learning environment. For more information go to www.umass.edu/disability/.

Everywomen's Center, Wilder Hall and Nelson Lounge, offers support groups and workshops dealing with issues ranging from healing from sexual abuse to dissertation writing support for women. For more information go to www.umass.edu/ewc/.

Mental Health Services, 127 Hills North, offers confidential counseling for individuals, couples and families, support and therapy groups, medication management, and an eating disorders clinic. For more information go to www.umass.edu/uhs/mentalhealth.

Native American Student Support Services (NASSS), B-11 Bartlett, provides academic, personal, and cultural support for Native American students, including through academic tutoring, advice on housing and financial aid, and connections to indigenous communities and organizations. For more information go to www.umass.edu/native/nasss/.

United Asia Learning Resource Center (UALRC), Knowlton Building, serves the needs of Asian and Asian American students by supporting students' transition to University life including personal, career and financial aid counseling, student advocacy, peer mentoring, and tutoring in a wide range of academic disciplines. For more information go to www.umass.edu/ualrc.

Women of Color Leadership Network (WOCLN), 101 Wilder Hall, provides a comfortable gathering place where students can find mentoring and advocacy services, as well as leadership training and network opportunities. For more information go to www.umass.edu/wocln/.

Other University Resources

Admissions Office	545-0222
Bursar's Office	545-2368
Campus Information	545-0012
Campus Tours	545-4237
Financial Aid Services	545-0801
New Students Program	545-2621
Office of Information Technologies (OIT)	545-9400
Registrar's Office	545-0555
Transfer Admissions and Credit Evaluation	545-0222

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Administration

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Head of Department	Joseph Bartolomeo	164 Bartlett Hall
Director, Undergraduate Studies & Chief Advisor	Jenny Adams	252 Bartlett Hall
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Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to the Department of English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As a department of literature and language in English, we value studying texts from a range of critical perspectives, from a range of periods and locations across the globe. We value writing--fiction, poetry, and various genres of nonfiction. We value teaching--teaching to read, appreciate, and interpret literature; to write in many genres; and to understand something of the workings of language, over time, in society, and for individuals. And we value you and know that you are a talented group.

I encourage you to make the most of what you can learn from our distinguished faculty, both in classes, through advising, and through other activities outside the classroom, including lectures, poetry and fiction readings, and arts events. We also have a distinguished group of alumni, who go on to such professions as teaching in high schools, colleges, and universities; professional writing; web design; nonprofit activism or administration; editing; fiction and poetry writing; scholarly research; business; and law. Fortunately for us and you, many want to give something back to the Department, including by meeting with English majors to discuss career options, so be on the look out for alumni career forums as well. We have much to offer that will broaden your life while here and help you imagine and prepare for your future.

Affirmation of Community

As a group of faculty, staff, and students, we are a diverse group, representing a range of life experiences, cultures, and social identities. As a department, we strive to meet the social justice goal stated in the University's 1990 Mission Statement: "to achieve a multicultural campus where men and women of diverse racial, social, and economic groups play major roles and, in a spirit of mutual respect, come to understand and appreciate the variety of perspectives that diversity makes possible." That variety of perspectives spurs intellectual and creative work and, more specifically, learning in our classrooms. A spirit of mutual respect is key to fostering such a community by enabling open give and take in discussion and supporting individual students as they seek to pursue a wide range of inquiries. This goal places a responsibility on each of us to recognize and respect one another's social identities, to invite perspectives other than our own, to listen well and honor one another's views, to strive not to ignore, distort, or dismiss those views.

As a department, we are committed to treating everyone with respect. Should you feel that you are being discriminated against or treated disrespectfully, we invite you to speak with your advisor or the director of undergraduate studies. We affirm as a value the University's Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Policy Statement: "The University of Massachusetts Amherst prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation."

Sincerely,

Joseph Bartolomeo
Department Chair

The Major

Why Major in English?

Undergraduate Studies in English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst offers the opportunities that come with a large department and a research university along with the small classes and sense of community you might associate with a private liberal arts college. The department faculty includes a host of internationally known professors whose widely published research puts them at the forefront of their fields and whose research and writing enriches what they teach and how they teach it. But unlike many other universities, and many other departments on campus, the English Department continues to provide small classes, on the principle that students learn best, and especially learn to write and read best, in small classes. While we do offer a handful of lecture courses--taught by lively and popular teachers--most courses in the department have 20 to 35 students and include plenty of discussion of readings and attention to writing.

Because of its size, the department can also offer an enticing diversity of learning opportunities. You can learn about Shakespeare from a teacher who focuses on the aesthetics of the plays or from a teacher equally concerned with cultural meanings of Shakespeare from the Renaissance up through *Shakespeare in Love* (and beyond). You can learn about an English literature that has its focus in the British Isles as well as an English literature that spans the globe and marks the history of colonization and its overthrow. While the department has special strengths in both Renaissance literature and world literature in English, it also has a number of other notable strengths. We have a long tradition of teaching and research in ethnic American literature, and the faculty currently has teachers with specialties in the writing and cultures of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans. The department also includes professors who teach interdisciplinary study, in American studies, Renaissance studies, Atlantic studies, women's studies, queer studies, cultural studies, performance studies, and the study of the relations between literature and science.

Amid the diversity of our offerings is a common commitment to developing the student's ability to analyze literary and cultural texts and contexts, and to write clear, persuasive, and graceful prose. We encourage you to think outside the box – and make language a source of your power in the world. These reading, thinking, and writing skills will enhance your capacity for persuasion, leadership, clarity, and interpersonal effectiveness in whatever career you pursue.

This guide familiarizes you with requirements, options, and resources within the English Department. If you do decide to major or minor in English, please hold on to it so that you can consult it as you continue through the program.

Careers

The English major affords students the ability to write and speak well, to think analytically and critically, and to solve problems quickly, all of which are required and sought after in today's job market. Knowing this, college graduates with a degree in English can enter into a wide variety of career fields: public affairs, business, politics, education, administration, writing, editing or publishing. Students may continue their education in Ph.D. programs or professional schools. With this flexibility of career fields also comes a broad range of potential employers: English majors can work for newspapers, government agencies, public and private schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, television stations, publishing companies, magazines, broadcasting companies, and law firms.

So the real question is not “what can you do with an English major” but “what will you do with an English major”? To help you decide where to direct your many skills, we hold workshops, encourage internships, and run a Career Seminar.

Admission to the Major / Declaring the Major

Students who wish to pursue an English major should understand that it is a writing-intensive degree; our courses require analytical as well as imaginative thinking and they promote thoughtful reflection on expressive culture. Any student may directly enter into the English major but students must complete the following sequence to progress through the major:

1. First, complete College Writing (English Writing 112 or 113). This course is the prerequisite to enrolling in English 200 and is normally taken in a student's Freshman year. (Some students may complete this requirement by receiving an exceptionally high grade on the Writing Placement Examination.)
2. Second, complete English 200: Intensive Literary Studies Seminar for Intended Majors and produce work at the B- or better* level as well as attend a Mandatory Advising session where students receive an overview of the department, the major, and programs and services available to them as majors. This course is normally taken in a student's sophomore year. (It is also required for the minor.)

First-year students accepted into the English TAP program will simultaneously complete both English 112 and English 200. With few exceptions, transfer students and students who decide to pursue the English major after their sophomore year must complete both of these requirements before progressing through the major.

While enrolled in English 200, students may also take upper-level English courses that are designated for General Education (GE) credit, including American Identities (English 270) and Shakespeare (English 221), which will count toward the major; but they may *not* register for any other courses restricted to advanced English majors who have completed English 200.

Students who wish to major in English must declare themselves by filling out a change-of-major form in the Undergraduate English Office in Bartlett 252.

[*BC or better in the case of students who entered the major prior to Fall 2004.]

Advising

Advising is your key to the world beyond! Getting to know your professors and meeting regularly with your advisor will allow you to tailor your UMass Amherst education to your strengths and interests and it will start you toward shaping a rewarding future for yourself. Your professors and your advisor hold scheduled office hours and they welcome your visits. But they will not come to you; you must go to them. And you do need them: they will be the ones to write you letters of recommendation, nominate you for scholarships, talk to you about coursework, and listen as you think through your interests, talents, and aspirations. If you have trouble finding your advisor, come to the English Undergraduate Office in Bartlett 252 and we will make sure you get the advising you seek. Start by reading the paragraphs below (as well as this handbook). And then make an appointment to meet with an advisor!

Upon declaring the major, each student is assigned to a faculty member who will act as an advisor and mentor and can give general advice concerning academic and related matters. Students should plan to meet with their advisor each semester during counseling week to discuss their course schedules for the following semester. Advisee assignments are posted on the bulletin board outside the Undergraduate English Office, 252 Bartlett Hall, and are posted on a student's SPIRE record.

In addition, the University offers an Academic Advising Link, located on the Garden Level of the Learning Commons-Du Bois library, which offers assistance with General Education requirements and

identifying academic interests, review and interpretation of Degree Progress Reports, class scheduling and SPIRE assistance, and more. For more information, visit their website at www.umass.edu/advising or email advisinglink@acad.umass.edu.

Students seeking assistance in devising an academic plan or with questions regarding University General Education requirements can contact the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, E24 Machmer Hall, 545-2192.

Students with questions regarding University and General Education requirements, credits, GPA, and repeat courses, should contact the Registrar's Office, 213 Whitmore, 545-0555.

Students with questions about the College of Humanities and Fine Arts language requirement should contact one of the Academic Deans in the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, E24 Machmer Hall, 545-2192.

For official signatures and for more specific advising related to internships, co-ops, honors, English education, study abroad, a second major or second degree, and preparation for graduate school, students should make an appointment to speak with one of the chief advisors in the Undergraduate English Office, 252 Bartlett Hall. Appointments can be scheduled in person or by calling 545-0388.

Students who would like further advising may contact the English Student Advisory Board, made up of a group of students representing diverse aspects of the English Department and the University. The board can be contacted by email at advisoryboard@english.umass.edu and can answer questions about courses, the major, and English department events.

Major Requirements

To graduate from the university with an English major, all students must complete three requirement areas: University General Education requirements, College of Humanities and Fine Arts requirements, and English Departmental requirements.

The following pages show the current requirements for an English major degree (major, University, and College) plus some specialization options available to students (not required). While these pages are designed to be a helpful guide, it is the student's responsibility to stay in contact with an advisor to insure that *all* graduation requirements are met and to keep informed of any changes in requirements.

ENGLISH MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

All majors are required to take eleven courses, including the junior-year writing requirement. There are some courses which can meet more than one requirement; you may count one such course towards two requirements, but will then need an additional upper-level elective to end with a total of eleven courses.

1. English 200

_____ 1 Intensive Literary Studies Seminar for Intended Majors and Minors.

2. British Literature

_____ 1 Course pre-1700 with some coverage of Medieval: ENGL 201, ENGL 311, ENGL 313, ENGL 416, ENGL 502, ENGL 505

_____ 1 Course 1700-1900: ENGL 202, ENGL 348, ENGL 349, ENGL 358, ENGL 469, ENGL 469J

_____ 1 Course in Shakespeare: ENGL 221, ENGL 222

3. American Literature

_____ 1 American Identities: ENGL 270

_____ 1 Additional course 200 level or above

4. Writing and Criticism

_____ 1 Junior-Year Writing Seminar: ENGL 300 or ENGL 419

NOTE: Students with English as a 2nd major normally satisfy their junior-year writing requirement in their primary major. It then is waived in English. Successful completion of PWTC specialization requirements also satisfies requirement.

5. Elective – Literature course (Non-writing)

_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level

6. Electives – Writing or Literature courses

_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level

_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level

_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level

- NOTES:
1. Some 200-level courses may count as electives: ENGL 203, ENGL 279, ENGL 297H, or a **second** course in Shakespeare (ENGL 221, ENGL 222).
 2. Two upper-level electives may come from closely related 300- or 400-level courses in other departments with approval from one of the chief advisors in Bartlett 252.
 3. If a course meets more than one requirement, a student may count 1 course twice but will then need to take an additional upper level elective for a total of 5 electives to end with a total of 11 courses.
 4. Three writing courses (creative, technical, or expository) can count as upper-level electives.

Additional Information

- A. English courses with grades below C and pass/fail courses *will not* be counted toward the major.
- B. One English course of any level may be counted toward General Education requirements.
- C. The department normally accepts a maximum of three courses from other institutions, including the other colleges in the Five-College system. This is also the rule for transfer students, who should have their transcripts evaluated for major credit by one of the chief advisers.
- D. If there is any doubt about the applicability of a particular course in another department, or from another school, check with the chief undergraduate advisors in Bartlett 252.

American Studies Specialization

Student may take only two courses at the 200-level (not including English 279); all others must be at the 300-level or above.

Introduction to American Studies: ENGL 279: _____

One or Two courses in American literature within the English Department: _____

Two or Three additional courses in American culture from at least 2 other depts.: _____

One of the following: a thesis; a senior seminar in American Studies; an internship: _____

Letter of Specialization in Nonfiction Writing

Introduction to Professional Writing: ENGL 379: _____

One Perspectives on Writing Course: ENGL 297H, ENGL 391D, ENGL 491BB, ENGL 491F, ENGL 491R: _____

Three Writing Electives: ENGL 297*, ENGL 298H, ENGL 327, ENGL 350, ENGL 391K, ENGL 352, ENGL 391J, ENGL 419, ENGL 450: _____

*Only one of these Experimental Writing Workshops may count towards the Nonfiction Specialization.

Professional Writing and Technical Communication (PWTC) Specialization

Technical Writing: ENGL 379: _____

Intermediate Professional Writing: ENGL 380: _____

Advanced Technical Writing I: ENGL 381: _____

Advanced Technical Writing II: ENGL 382: _____

Advanced Software: ENGL 391C: _____

Creative Writing Specialization

Students must complete ENGL 254 and 354 with a minimum grade of "B" and a minimum grade of "C" in all others.

Writing and Reading Imaginative Literature: ENGL 254: _____

Creative Writing: Introduction: ENGL 354: _____

Creative Writing: Fiction: ENGL 355* *or* Creative Writing: Poetry: ENGL 356*: _____

Two electives: additional ENGL 355* or 356*, ENGL 297, ENGL 350, ENGL 352, ENGL 391J, ENGL 450:

or by invitation: two semester Thesis Project (ENGL 496 Ind Study or ENGL 499Y-499P Honors Project) : _____

*Students may repeat these courses once with a new professor as a way of fulfilling their five courses.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All students graduating with a bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst must satisfy a set of General Education requirements. These requirements are designed to give all students a broad background in the liberal arts and sciences. Each General Education requirement has a special letter designation. For a list of courses which satisfy General Education requirements, go to the Registrar's website at www.umass.edu/registrar, and click on "General Education Requirements".

A. Social World: 6 courses:

- _____ (1) Course in Literature (AL)
- _____ (1) Course in Historical Studies (HS)
- _____ (1) Course in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB)
- _____ (1) Course in Arts (AL, AT, I, or SI)
- _____ (1) Course in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB, I, or SI)
- _____ (1) Social World (AL, AT, HS, SB, I, or SI)

B. Social and Cultural Diversity: 2 courses:

- _____ (1) Course with Diversity designation (U)
- _____ (1) Course with Global Diversity designation (G)

NOTE: Students who entered the university before Fall 2002 can fulfill their 2-course Diversity requirement through any combination of (the old) "D" or the new "U" or "G" designations.

NOTE: The "U" and "G" designations may be combined with Social World courses with designations like ALU, ALG, ATU, ATG, HSU, HSG, SBU, SBG, IU, or IG.

C. Biological and Physical World: 3 courses

- _____ (1) Course in Biological Science (BS)
- _____ (1) Course in Physical Science (PS)
- _____ (1) Additional course: students who entered the University *prior to Fall 2005* can satisfy this third science requirement with a BS, PS, Interdisciplinary (I) or Science Interdisciplinary (SI) course. Students who entered the University Fall 2005 or later can satisfy this third science requirement with a BS, PS or SI course. An Interdisciplinary (I) course can not satisfy this requirement.

D. _____ (1) Course in Basic Math Skills (R1/Tier 1): completion of a Basic Math Skills (RI) course or a satisfactory score on either the Math Placement Exam or the Basic Math Skills Exemption Exam

E. _____ (1) Course in Analytical Reasoning (R2/Tier II)

NOTE: The following courses may satisfy *both* the R1 *and* R2 requirements: Math 113, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 135, 136, 233, 235, 236 or 456, Res-Econ 211 or 212, Statistic 111, 140, 501, 515, or 516.

F. Writing: 2 courses

- _____ College Writing (CW): completion of a College Writing course or a satisfactory score on the Placement Exam, SAT/ Achievement Test, or the Advanced Placement Test
- _____ Junior-Year Writing to be satisfied in the student's major department

NOTE: Only (1) course in the student's major department may be counted toward satisfaction of the following Gen Ed requirements: AL, AT, HS, SB, BS, PS, or R2. If the student uses one course in the department to fulfill one of these requirements, and that course does not have a Diversity designation (is not designated as ALD, ATD, HSD, SBD, or ID), the student may use a second course in the major department to fulfill one of the two Diversity requirements.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES and FINE ARTS REQUIREMENTS

Language Requirement: All students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language at the intermediate level, by one of the following methods:

1. Completion of a foreign language course at the fourth semester level (Intermediate II or Intermediate Intensive courses numbered 240-249). Intermediate II courses may be graded on a Pass/Fail basis.
2. Degree credit equivalent to such a course earned through an appropriate score on a College Board Foreign Language Test or a College Board Advanced Placement Test.
3. Proficiency demonstrated in a test designed by a University of Massachusetts language department, or a test administered and validated by a local faculty member if the language is not one offered by a department at the University.
4. Satisfactory completion in high school of either a fourth-level foreign language course, or of a third-level course in one language and a second-level course in another language.
5. Successful completion of one year in a high school in which English is not the language of instruction.
6. Successful completion of a semester or year's study abroad program that leads to foreign language proficiency at the fourth semester (Intermediate II) level as approved by the appropriate language department.

Students who have not satisfied the Foreign Language requirement on admission to the College must select a foreign language course each term in residence until the requirement has been satisfied. The University offers sequences that satisfy this requirement in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian (available through the Five Colleges), and Spanish. Students who have not yet completed the Foreign Language requirement may not apply their Pass/Fail option to foreign language courses numbered below 240.

Students who are certified by the Disability Services Office as having a significant hearing impairment that is seriously limiting to the auditory reception of language may fulfill the Foreign Language requirement either by demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language at the intermediate level, or by completing four courses (12 credits) taught in English on the history, culture, or literature of non-English speaking countries or regions. These courses must be in addition to courses used to fulfill the General Education requirements, and may not be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. A list of courses that may be used in this manner is available from the Arts and Sciences Advising Office.

Students with a documented learning disability may petition a consumer manager at Disability Services. To initiate such a petition, contact Disability Services, 231 Whitmore Administration Building, (413) 545-0892.

Students with questions about the language requirement should contact one of the Academic Deans in the Arts and Sciences Advising Center, E-24 Machmer Hall, 545-2192.

Additional options

English Minor

1. Students must complete six English courses with a grade of C or better.
2. Students are allowed two writing courses and two transfer courses for the minor.

Requirements:

1. _____ 1 Course Intensive Literary Studies Seminar for Intended Major and Minors: ENGL 200
2. One course each in British literature and American literature
_____ 1 Course in British literature (200 level or above)
_____ 1 Course in American literature (200 level or above)
3. Three upper-level electives, selected from the 300- or 400-level offerings, or from designated 200-level courses
_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level
_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level
_____ 1 Course at 300 or 400 level

The following 200-level courses will also count as electives: ENGL 203, ENGL 279, ENGL 297 (except 297A and any experimental pass-fail course), or a **second course in Shakespeare (ENGL 221, ENGL 222).

English Departmental Honors Track

Honors Courses. The English Department's Honors courses are open to all majors who seek an intensive seminar experience within the program. At the same time, these courses particularly serve the needs of English majors who are enrolled in Commonwealth College (CC) and have chosen to pursue the departmental honors track as part of their Commonwealth College degree, as described below. Each semester, the department designates several courses, and sometimes sections of larger courses, as honors courses. These 20-student courses often involve more difficult material and assignments and are conducted at a level that requires students' full concentration and engagement in the course material. In return, they provide a particularly rich learning experience. Any student desiring this kind of intensive work may enroll in an honors course without making any honors commitment beyond the course.

Departmental CC Honors Tracks. Graduation from the University with honors (*cum laude*) may be earned on the basis of cumulative average alone, currently with an average of 3.200 (based on a minimum of 45 credits earned in residence). To be eligible for graduation with higher honors (*magna cum laude*) or highest honors (*summa cum laude*) a student must complete the Commonwealth College requirements. Under these requirements, CC English majors can choose from three options, one of which is the departmental honors track. The departmental honors track requires 2 honors-designated courses within the major (see below for details) and culminates in the writing of an independently-designed honors thesis under the supervision of a two-person faculty committee, usually English Department faculty.

Whichever path CC students choose, to achieve *magna cum laude*, they must maintain an overall cumulative average of 3.500; for *summa cum laude*, a 3.800. Also be aware that, in order to graduate

through the Commonwealth College, students must complete at least forty-five (45) graded credits in residence. This is of special importance to transfer students.

Ideally, during spring registration in their sophomore year, CC English majors should begin deciding which track they would like to pursue. **The English Department recommends that CC English majors make an appointment with the Department Honors Coordinator at this time.** During this meeting the student and the Honors Coordinator can explore the student's options and interests in order to clarify which track best serves that student. It's best to make this decision in the spring of sophomore year (and particularly important if a student plans to go abroad) so that a student can choose courses that might support the thesis work and can develop relationships with faculty who may become members of the thesis committee. **To make an appointment to see the Honors Coordinator, come to Bartlett 252 or call 545-0388.**

Pursuing Departmental Honors. All students who wish to pursue departmental honors must be members in good standing of the Commonwealth College. Entrance into departmental honors requires a cumulative average of 3.2, no grades below B in English courses, and an interview with the Honors Coordinator, which ideally will take place after the student has completed at least one honors course.

Whichever track they pursue, students in Commonwealth College will complete eight honors courses, the first four of which are General Education honors courses (including an honors College Writing course, equivalent, or exemption; an honors general education course of any type; an honors interdisciplinary general education course; and the Dean's Book series).

For students choosing the English departmental track, the second four Commonwealth College requirements will be met within the English department, two of them by the 6-credit honors thesis. Of the other two courses, one must be at or above the 300-level.* The Department strongly recommends that students take their Junior-Year Writing courses as Honors courses, where possible. And again, no honors course with a grade below "B" will be counted toward departmental honors requirements.

To summarize, the requirements that are specific to the English Department Honors track are:

--one honors course in the English Department at the 200-level or above

--one honors course in the English Department at the 300-level or above

--the **two-semester honors thesis**, worth 6 credits. Students writing a literary-critical thesis sign up for 499Y (usually in the fall) and 499T (usually in the spring), and students writing a creative thesis sign up for 499Y (fall) and 499P (spring). A thesis proposal, signed by both faculty committee members and the Honors Coordinator, must be turned into both the department and the CC office by the end of add/drop in the fall semester of the senior year—but, ideally, will be submitted during registration in the spring of the junior year.

The Honors Thesis. The thesis is truly the culmination of the CC English major's departmental and Commonwealth College experience. It is an opportunity for the student to bring his or her literary education to fruition in an independently conceived work, with the guidance and support of two faculty members. **This intensive, 6-credit, two-semester written project will count toward the English major as 2 of the student's 4 upper-level electives.**

The English Honors thesis may be either an analytical work of literary criticism (typically about 50 pages in length) or a substantial creative work (either a collection of poems and stories or one longer work of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction). To graduate with departmental honors, students must receive at least a B on the thesis. To graduate with *magna cum laude* honors, students must receive at least a B+ on the thesis, plus obtain an overall GPA of 3.5, and to graduate with *summa cum laude* honors, students must

receive at least an A- on the thesis, plus obtain an overall GPA of 3.8. Students who receive a grade lower than B on their thesis work cannot graduate with departmental honors.

The thesis is written under the supervision of at least two faculty members. Typically, both committee members are faculty (not graduate students) of the English department, although one member may be faculty from another department. **The chairperson of the committee must be a faculty member from the English Department.** During the second semester of the junior year, the student pursuing Departmental Honors should again meet with the Honors Coordinator, in this case to begin to identify two faculty members to work with him or her on the thesis. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this meeting with the Honors Coordinator and then to meet with and ask faculty to serve on his or her committee. **Assembling a good faculty committee can be challenging, so this important step should be undertaken in the junior year.**

To begin the thesis work, the student writes a **thesis proposal**, which must be signed by both faculty committee members as well as the Honors Coordinator and turned into both the department and the CC office, preferably during registration in the second semester of the junior year but no later than the end of add/drop in the fall semester of the senior year. Throughout the senior year, the student will work especially closely with the committee chair, meeting regularly to discuss research, drafts, and revision. The English department recommends that students **begin drafting during the Fall semester**, including in the case of the literary-critical thesis, allowing this preliminary phase of writing to further direct the research process. In the middle of the second semester, the student should arrange, together with committee members, a date for the oral, which follows the completion of the thesis. At the end of the year, the thesis committee will conduct the oral exam and award a final grade.

The Commonwealth College office has information on recent theses and projects in English, and you can examine some at the University Archives in the W.E.B. Du Bois library. Thesis and project formats are strictly regulated by the Commonwealth College office; consult the CC website for details.

NOTE: All students participating in the departmental honors track must also complete the college language requirement and are urged to begin the study of a foreign literature. Students contemplating graduate study in the humanities should be aware that most graduate schools require at least one foreign language for the M.A. and two for the Ph.D.

For further information, see the departmental honors coordinator in 252 Bartlett Hall or call 545-0388. Information about Commonwealth College is available at its office in Goodell 504, by telephone at 545-2483, or on the website at www.comcol.umass.edu.

* With the approval of the Honors Coordinator, the two required Honors courses may be taken in related departments or at the Four Colleges.

The Five Colleges

One of the unique opportunities afforded each student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is the ability to enroll in courses from the surrounding four colleges: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College. Grades earned at the other four colleges are recorded and factored into the UMass Amherst GPA. Students may enroll in no more than 8 credits (usually 2 classes) per school each semester. Registration for courses at the four colleges for undergraduate students is held in the Five College Interchange Office, 614 Goodell Building *only* during the first week of registration and during add/drop at the start of each semester.

Course listings are available at the Five College website: www.fivecolleges.edu.

To participate, students must be at least a second-semester freshman, be in good academic standing, and be enrolled in at least one regular 3-credit UMass Amherst course. There are no additional fees for Five College classes. Please call 545-5352 for more information.

NOTE: Normally students may apply a maximum of 3 courses taken from other institutions, including the four colleges, toward the English major requirements. Students wishing to use these courses towards their major requirements must have prior approval from one of the chief undergraduate advisors, Undergraduate English Office, 252 Bartlett.

Specializations

American Studies Specialization

The Letter of Specialization in American Studies offers a concentration that enables students to shape an interdisciplinary course of study around unresolved social and intellectual issues in American Culture-- e.g., questions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity.

A Letter of Specialization is conferred on students who successfully complete the following program of courses:

Students must complete a minimum of *six* courses with a minimum grade of 'C', of which one must be a thesis, senior seminar, or internship. Student may take only two courses at the 200-level (not including English 279); all others must be at the 300-level or above.

- A. English 279, Introduction to American Studies
- B. One or two courses in American literature within the English Department.
- C. Two or three additional courses in American culture from at least two other departments
- D. One of the following: a thesis; a senior seminar in American Studies; an internship.

To view a list of pre-approved courses or for more information, contact Professor Randall Knoper, 156 Bartlett Hall, (413) 545-2329, knoper@english.umass.edu.

Letter of Specialization in Nonfiction Writing

The Letter of Specialization in Nonfiction Writing highlights the variety of writing courses and expertise offered at the undergraduate level. It allows majors to shape and direct skills learned in other English writing courses in a manner that may lead them to a range of careers in writing and/or publishing. Likewise, it gives majors access to those careers indirectly, preparing them for graduate programs in publishing, nonfiction writing, and rhetoric and composition.

A Letter of Specialization is conferred on students who successfully complete the following program of courses:

Students must complete a minimum of five courses with a minimum grade of 'C'.

- 1) English 379 Introduction to Professional Writing
- 2) One Perspectives on Writing Course: English 329H Tutoring Writing: Theory & Practice, English 391D Writing and Emerging Technologies, English 491 Gender and Writing, English 491BB Origins of Reading, English 491F Literacy Studies in the U.S., English 491R Writing & Teaching Writing, English 491X History of the Book

3) Three Writing Electives, one of which may be an internship in writing or publishing: English 297* Experimental Writing Workshops, English 298H Honors Practicum: Teaching in the Writing Center, English 327 Modern Business Writing, English 350 Expository Writing, English 391K Professional Editing, English 352 Article Writing, English 391J Creative Nonfiction, English 392H Essentials Professional Edit, English 419 Games Thinkers Play, English 450 Advanced Expository Writing

*Only one of these courses may count towards the Nonfiction Specialization.

For more information or for approval of other courses that may be accepted for the requirements, contact the coordinator of this specialization, David Toomey, 481 Bartlett Hall, (413) 545-5519, dtoomey@english.umass.edu.

Professional Writing and Technical Communication (PWTC) Specialization

The letter of specialization in professional writing and technical communication provides practice in professional research and editing, grant writing, software and hardware documentation, report writing and business communications; it supplies hands-on training in a range of industry-standard software; and it offers an ongoing forum for the study and critique of theories and practices of information design.

A Letter of Specialization is conferred on students who successfully complete the following program of courses:

Students in the program take five courses over one academic year: ENGL 379: Technical Writing, ENGL 380: Intermediate Professional Writing, ENGL 381: Advanced Technical Writing I, ENGL 382: Advanced Technical Writing II, and ENGL 391C: Advanced Software.

Successful completion of this specialization satisfies and therefore waives the Junior Year Writing requirement for English majors. Three of these courses count as upper-level electives for the English major; two count as general education graduation credit. The program places a number of its students in "junior-level" writing and editing positions, through internships and co-ops. Since 1990, program graduates have enjoyed nearly 100 percent employment in writing and editing.

For further information, contact Professor David Toomey, Bartlett 481; or email dtoomey@english.umass.edu. See also the program website at www.umass.edu/pwtc.

Creative Writing Specialization

The Department's Creative Writing Specialization aims to provide inspiration and support for committed writers and to offer serious instruction in craft. Classes usually include readings in one or more literary genres and workshop review of students' writing.

A letter of Specialization is conferred on students who successfully complete the following program of courses.

Students must complete a minimum of *five* courses with a minimum grade of "B" in English 254 and English 354 and a minimum grade of "C" in all others.

If approved, students may substitute appropriate courses at UMass and the four colleges (Smith, Mount Holyoke, Amherst, and Hampshire) for the optional courses listed below. Pre-approval must be given by our faculty advisors, Jenny Adams, jadams@english.umass.edu or Janis Greve, jgreve@english.umass.edu, 252 Bartlett Hall. We recommend that you make an appointment with one of them by calling (413) 545-0388.

Required Courses: English 254: Writing and Reading Imaginative Literature, English 354: Creative Writing: Introduction, and English 355*: Creative Writing: Fiction *or* English 356*: Creative Writing: Poetry.

Please note that to add English 355 or English 356, students must have completed English 354 or 354H with a grade of "B" or better and receive consent from instructors by submitting a portfolio of work. Please contact the English Department for more information.

*Students may repeat these courses once with a new professor as a way of fulfilling their five courses.

Optional Courses: one English 297: Experimental Writing Workshop (offered each *spring semester* through the Writing Program), one Nonfiction Writing course such as English 350 Expository Writing, English 352 Article Writing, English 391J Creative Nonfiction, or English 450 Advanced Expository Writing.

NOTE: Selected students of high promise will be invited to complete their Specialization through a two semester **Thesis Project** (English 496 Independent Study or the English 499Y-499P Honors Project). These students will work individually with one or two faculty members over the course of a year, intensifying their writing practice and producing a substantial senior thesis.

Scholarships and Prizes

Scholarships

The English Department awards four scholarships each spring to recognize exceptional achievements of English majors; the Cleo Zoukis Ploussious, the Frank Prentice Rand, the William M. Bulger, and the General John A. and Evangeline W. Maginnis. There are also many opportunities for English majors to receive scholarships and awards through the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (CHFA) and the University. In past semesters, English majors have received such prestigious awards as the 21st Century Leaders Award given in recognition of exemplary achievement and strong leadership qualities, the College of Humanities and Fine Arts Scholarships awarded on the basis of academic merit and extracurricular achievements and the William F. Field Alumni Scholars Program for students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and unique skills in the areas of art, athletics, research or service to the community, to name a few. To see a complete list of scholarships and for more information, go to www.umass.edu/hfa/scholarships.htm.

Essay Prizes

The English Department awards three prizes for best essays each spring; the Charles A. Peters awarded for the best essay on English literature written between 1558 and 1667, the Sanderson Prize awarded for the best essay on any subject, and the Steinbugler Prize awarded for the best essay on any subject by a woman English major. Deadlines are in early April each year and essays should be written during the current or previous two semesters.

Special Programs

Oxford Summer Seminar

Since its inception in 1966, the Oxford Summer Seminar has offered students from UMass Amherst and other American universities the opportunity to live and study at Oxford University for six weeks in July and August. Students can earn up to eight credits from courses in literature, political science, art history, law, and history. All courses are taught by distinguished British faculty in small groups or individual tutorials.

While at Oxford, students live and dine at Trinity College—founded in 1555 and noted for its magnificent architecture and gardens. In addition to its academic schedule, the Seminar organizes field trips to nearby sites of literary and historical importance such as Blenheim Palace, Stonehenge, and various London museums.

For further information, contact the Oxford Program Director, Professor Jenny Adams, at 545-5516; send an email to oxford@english.umass.edu; or visit the website at www.umass.edu/oxford.

Education Abroad

The university offers a wide variety of education abroad programs, which can be pursued over a semester, academic year, or during the summer, January or spring breaks. Students may also enroll in education abroad programs run by other American colleges and universities, and through independent education abroad providers. These programs are known as "non-UMass" programs.

Most students study abroad during their junior year, but sophomores and seniors are also eligible. For UMass programs, tuition and fees are paid directly to the UMass Bursar's Office. Applications and fees for non-UMass programs are sent directly to the program to which the student is applying. Most financial aid applies to education abroad tuition and fees. Credits from education abroad programs count as UMass residence credits, but exchange credits only affect cumulative averages if the student is enrolled in a UMass program that has a UMass faculty member on-site.

Many English majors choose to study in Great Britain and Ireland, but English majors may also study in other countries, such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Germany and the Netherlands. Students planning to go abroad should speak to one of the chief advisors and receive prior approval for all courses. The department normally allows students spending a year abroad to count a maximum of four (approved) courses toward major requirements. For those spending a semester abroad, the limit is three courses.

All students planning on studying abroad must complete initial advising and a pre-application form in the Education Abroad Advising Center, located at the International Programs Office, 455 Hills South; open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; phone: 545-2710. More information is available on the IPO website at www.umass.edu/ipo.

Undergraduate English Society

The English Society invites to its meetings all students who enjoy literature and want to cultivate a community of readers on campus. Activities include judging submissions and publishing the annual undergraduate literary journal Jabberwocky, hosting an annual reading of undergraduate writing, going on field trips to readings and sites of literary interest, helping other members improve their writing style, reading selections from choice authors, running a coffee table located in the lobby of Bartlett Hall, and more.

Students interested in joining the society can attend its weekly meetings held every Thursday in 262 Bartlett Hall. The Society is always accepting new members, so it is never too late to join. For meeting times, contact information, upcoming events, instructions for submitting your own writing to Jabberwocky, and more information about the English Society in general, please go to its website at www.umass.edu/english/society.

Jabberwocky: The Undergraduate Literary Journal of UMass Amherst

Jabberwocky Literary Journal is published yearly each spring by the English Society and consists of all forms of poetry and fiction. Students may submit as many entries as they like, each no longer than four single-spaced pages. The English Society reads each work namelessly at its weekly meetings.

To submit work to be considered for the journal, *do not* put your name on your work; instead, attach your name, number, and email on a piece of paper or note card and slide your submission under the door of 262 Bartlett (you'll see a sign affirming you're at the right door) or put it in the English Society mailbox outside the main English Department office, 170 Bartlett.

Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies

The Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies welcomes all qualified scholars and students, both graduate and undergraduate, to do specialized research with its unique collection of manuscripts, rare books, and secondary monographs. The Center also offers community classes and lectures, concerts, and play readings. The Center is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; phone: 577-3600. For more information, visit the website at www.umass.edu/renaissance.

Career Planning

The English Department is committed to helping its majors choose and prepare for their first careers. The Department offers a course in "Careers for English Majors" as well as career-related workshops. We also strongly encourage students to visit Campus Career Services (right next door in Goodell 511) in their Sophomore or Junior year. Students majoring in English are offered counseling services, access to a database of internships and co-ops, and other career-related events. They include:

Career Counseling

A career advisor will help you identify personal goals, skills, interests, and preferences. You might choose to take FOCUS online, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) in person in Goodell, or other personal inventories. These can help you determine your strengths and potential, as well as suggest various careers you may not have considered. You can gain assistance in your field experience or job search process, and learn the necessary resume writing, interviewing and networking skills. Email clgould@acad.umass.edu with some times that work or you, or stop by 511 Goodell for 15-minute impromptu walk-in sessions that are available from noon to 4:00 pm.

Field Experience

An internship or a co-op is an essential tool for exploring possible occupations and gaining the extra-curricular experience employers look for in a new graduate. In general, internships involve academic credit and co-ops do not, although both have some sort of university oversight and appear on your transcript. Students are required to attend a Career Services "welcome session" before submitting an internship application.

For more information, interested students may attend an Introduction to Internships and Co-ops session offered during the semester every Monday and Thursday at 3:00 pm in 508 Goodell or visit the Career Services website at www.umass.edu/careers.

Internships

Faculty are available to sponsor semester-long or summer internships that will help you in your career planning and allow you to apply your knowledge to the work place. While working as an intern, you will be testing the field as an area in which you might want to work, finding out what further training you will need, getting experience useful in future job hunting, and making valuable contacts.

There are two types of internships available: Engl 298 (ungraded credits) or UMass 298Y (ungraded credits). Here's what to do if you are interested:

1. Make sure you are eligible.
 - A. For Engl 298, you must have junior or first-semester senior standing at the time of the internship, with most required courses in English completed and a GPA of 2.5 or better.
 - B. For UMass 298Y you must have earned at least 45 credits by the time you do your internship and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

NOTE: UMass 298Y: Practicum must be graded as a Pass/Fail and *will not* fulfill any English Departmental requirements, but may count towards general elective credits.

2. See what internships are available and find out the process for registering. You may collect an academic contract from the Field Experience Program in the Career Services building at 511 Goodell, 545-2224, or online at www.umass.edu/careers.
3. Find a sponsor—perhaps your personal advisor in the department—who will agree to work with you.
4. You and your sponsor should agree to the terms of an internship contract, which details the amount of work and the kind of project you will do for the internship and the number of credits you will receive.

Co-op Program

A co-op is a paid, non-credit position that gives you the opportunity to work with professionals in a field of interest. You will experience that workplace first-hand, develop new skills, and explore professional goals. You need to have a 2.0 GPA overall to do a co-op placement. Placements must normally be completed prior to graduation, although if you are in your fourth year and still have no job experience you may ask your counselor about our Second Chance co-op program. The process of registering for a co-op is similar to that for an internship: check in with your advisor or a Career Services counselor for further details.

Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) in English

Students seeking certification at the middle or high school level as a teacher of English can achieve this goal by successfully completing the Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP). The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has established seven standards which all certification candidates must meet. Standards II-VII, which deals with specific aspects of teaching in the schools, are covered through course work and student teaching administered by the School of Education. Standard I deals with prospective teachers' knowledge of English and is met by completing a specific set of courses within the English Department.

For admission to the English-Education component of the STEP program, students must have a 3.0 cumulative average and a 3.0 average in English courses. Undergraduates must pass the Communication and Literacy component of the Massachusetts Educators Certification Test (MECT) as a prerequisite for admission. All candidates must pass the subject matter component of the MECT as a prerequisite for student teaching. Information about the tests and workshops to help prepare candidates for the Communication and Literacy test are available in Furcolo Hall Room 125.

Applications, a complete program description, and initial advising for the program are available in the STEP Information Office, Room 121, Furcolo Hall, 545-4397. You may also send e-mail to stepadv@educ.umass.edu. Students planning to enter the program should meet as soon as possible with one of the English Department's chief advisors (in Bartlett 252) to plan their course of study.

Graduate Study

After completing the undergraduate degree, there are a number of options available for graduate study in literature and writing. Students who wish to pursue an advanced degree should choose the option that best suits their academic and career interests.

A wide range of professional and graduate schools look favorably on an undergraduate degree in English because of the writing, thinking and speaking skills it cultivates in students. Hence an English degree is an excellent launching pad for law schools and business schools, as well as professional programs in such fields as social work, therapy, and public health.

The Master of Arts (MA) degree is often necessary and always useful for those wishing to teach in secondary schools. It also provides an opportunity for sharpening critical and writing skills. Many colleges and universities offer MA programs, and they can vary considerably in length and requirements (e.g., coursework alone or coursework and a thesis).

Those who decide to pursue creative writing should look into the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree. Typically, these programs include workshops and independent work with a faculty mentor. Some require students to take additional literature courses. Many creative writing faculty in colleges and universities have an MFA degree program, but only a small number of creative writing faculty positions are available nationally.

Students hoping to teach literature at the college or university level and to engage in scholarly research, criticism, and publication need to pursue the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. Admission to doctoral programs is competitive; the programs customarily take four to seven years to complete, and prospects for tenure-track faculty positions in the humanities are not very promising. However, if you have done extremely well in English and are willing to take the risk, a doctoral program could be rewarding.

There are several ways in which undergraduates can prepare themselves for graduate study in English. First, try to develop as broad a range as possible in English and American literature. This usually involves taking a large number of courses that survey multiple authors and study historical periods or genres. This breadth will prove helpful in preparing for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) in English, which, along with a more general test, is required for admission to doctoral programs.

It is also useful to achieve and maintain a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language (typically required for the MA) and, if possible, begin a second language (typically required for the PhD).

If you are thinking about graduate school, you should arrange to speak with one of the chief advisors as early on in your undergraduate career as possible. A selection of graduate program descriptions is available in Bartlett 252; there are informational posters outside the office. For further information about taking the GRE, visit the test website at: www.gre.org.

Letters of Recommendation

If you ask a professor for a letter of reference, s/he will almost never refuse. It is important, however, to choose faculty who can write you a very strong letter. The best way to avoid lukewarm and tentative letters is to follow these steps:

1. Ask the professor if s/he knows your work well enough to write you a good letter of recommendation. If you phrase the question this way, only professors who are enthusiastic about your work will agree to write letters for you.

2. Always provide all the necessary forms, filled out as completely as possible, along with a stamped and addressed envelope. This will make the recommender's job easier and probably speed up the process.
3. Ask a faculty member for a letter as soon as possible after you have completed their course. Your work will be fresh in their mind at this time, allowing for a detailed, comprehensive letter. If you take another course with the professor, or if a lot of time has passed before you need to use the letter, you may ask the professor to update the letter with more details.
4. Provide the reference with information about yourself and your work. Along with a resume, you should give the professor copies of the written work that you completed in his/her course. This will result in more detailed and effective letters.
5. Finally, let your references know the results of your application process and thank them. This is not only courteous, but may also help the faculty to know if their letters were as effective as possible.

Resolving Conflicts

Occasionally, disputes will arise between students and instructors. While the campus Ombuds Office is designed to deal with such disputes, they can often be handled more informally at the departmental level. A student who has a complaint or concern should begin by discussing it with the instructor. If this is not feasible, or does not result in a satisfactory outcome, the student should make an appointment with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, 252 Bartlett Hall, who will try to mediate and resolve the conflict. Throughout the entire process, the student's standing and interests will be safeguarded.

If a resolution cannot be reached within the department, the student has recourse through the campus Ombuds Office. For further information on this office, and a great deal of other useful information, students should consult the statement of Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities, available from the Dean of Students Office or on the website at www.umass.edu/dean_students.