

ENGLISH Now Has 9 Specializations!

In addition to the major and minor, the English Department now offers 8 Letters of Specialization and 1 Certificate

- These areas of study, **3-5 courses** each, are open to undergraduate students **from any UMass Amherst major**.
- Students considering a specialization are encouraged to contact one of the advisors associated with it.
- **No formal paperwork is needed** to begin coursework.
- Upon completion of the specialization or certificate, **students receive a signed certificate**.
- There is an **Individualized Option** for students who wish to design their own 3-5 course specialization within English.



American Studies

The American Studies specialization allows students to shape an interdisciplinary course of study around unresolved social and intellectual issues in American culture; for example, questions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity.



Creative Writing

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



Digital Humanities + Games

This area of specialization aims to better prepare students to create and produce digital media and to use, analyze, and create digital tools. The two paths include Games and Interactive Narrative and Digital Humanities Methods and Culture. Both areas of the specialization prioritize developing creative and technical literacies and refining written and communication skills.



Environmental Humanities

The Environmental Humanities specialization prepares students to engage in issues and topics relating to our environment and climate change.



Literature as History

The Literature as History specialization emphasizes links between history, narrative, and writing—and reminds us that the past is always a part of the present.



Professional Writing and Technical Communication

The Professional Writing and Technical Communication (PWTC) certificate prepares students for careers in professional writing, technical communication, and user experience. PWTC students gain technology skills and project-based experience in editing, grant writing, software documentation, report writing, and web design.



Social Justice: Race, Class, Gender, Ability

The Social Justice specialization explores the ways that diverse writers cast a spotlight on injustices and help us imagine a world that is better and more just.



The Study and Practice of Writing

The Study and Practice of Writing (SPOW) specialization is a good fit for students who enjoy writing or who are planning to enter writing-intensive professions such as: writing for non-profits, science writing, medical writing, legal writing, nonfiction writing, commercial and academic publishing, new media development, editing, and others.



Teaching the English Language Arts

The TELA specialization is a good fit for any undergraduate student interested in teaching or tutoring English – whether in middle or secondary schools, ESL programs, or other sites. Students don't have to be English majors, or pursuing educator licensure, to complete the specialization.

For More Information, Contact:

The English Department Undergraduate Studies Office, South College E345, (413) 545-0388, or visit <https://www.umass.edu/english/certificates-and-specializations>

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