



# English Language and Literature

## at Benedictine University

### Why study English language and literature at Benedictine?

This program is designed to develop students' appreciation and understanding of English and American literature as well as translated writings of other nations. Courses provide introductory and advanced study of significant writers, periods, genres, literary techniques and the structure of language. Students develop their analytical abilities, oral and written communication skills and awareness of the literary legacy of diverse cultures and traditions. Students may also double major in a variety of other fields, such as education, biology or communications. In a competitive job market, this combination of strengths provides graduates with a powerful distinction. This degree prepares a student to succeed in graduate or professional school; to teach at the elementary or secondary level; to enter the world of business, which highly values critical-thinking and communications skills; and to work effectively in the fields of publishing, writing, and electronic and print media.

### What are the requirements for completing the major?

Courses follow a progression that begins with Introduction to Literary Analysis, which is required for all majors. Formal advising for the program begins in the sophomore year. Majors receive individual guidance from faculty advisors, who help students choose classes that provide exposure to a wide range of periods, authors, genres and critical methodologies. In addition to studying the Western Canon, students are expected to choose courses from such diverse areas as gender and literature, U.S. multiethnic literature, African-American literature and global/postcolonial literature. Students interested in graduate work or professional school, including pre-law, should include LITR 305, *Critical Theory*, as a 300-level elective; while those considering a career in writing should take LITR 269, 369 and/or 370, the creative writing sequence. Majors who are pursuing certification in English Language Arts at the middle or secondary school level should use the major checklist for English Language and Literature with a Secondary Education minor. Please refer to the four-year plan for Secondary Education minors. All 300-level LITR courses are open as electives to all interested students who have completed LITR 100. The Senior Seminar, which includes the completion of a major writing project, is the program capstone, bringing together all senior majors to share and refine their ideas.

### What does a degree in English Language and Literature offer?

This program offers a great deal of flexibility in order to address students' educational and professional needs and interests with equal concern. The faculty of full-time instructors are active professionals and dedicated teachers who work closely with students to guide them in their personal, academic and professional development. Low student-to-faculty ratios and small classes provide the individual attention expected in a liberal arts college. Students receive a well-rounded general education while specializing in their chosen areas of interest.

Students also enjoy an array of cultural opportunities. These opportunities include open mic/poetry slams and fiction readings by professional writers with opportunities to meet and work with them, lectures by scholars and thinkers from a variety of disciplines and the chance to gain professional expertise by working on such University publications as the *DuPage Valley Review*, a professional journal of literature and arts.

The close working relationship between the Department of Languages and Literature and the School of Education is one of the great advantages of Benedictine University. The English Language and Literature major/Secondary Education minor is designed to fulfill state licensure requirements, help future educators build their portfolios, practice and incorporate pedagogical skills into the classroom texts and issues relevant to educating students at all levels. Students admitted to the Secondary Education program will be given the opportunity to qualify as student teachers in outstanding local schools. Students preparing to teach at the elementary school level should major in Education with a minor in English Language and Literature.

This program provides up-to-date, pre-professional tracks for students who wish to attend graduate or professional school or pursue careers in writing. Upper-level courses in literature, creative writing and literary theory prepare majors for advanced degree programs in the field. The degree is also highly recommended for pre-law students and others who wish to develop strong communication research and reasoning skills. A minor is available for non-majors who wish to demonstrate versatility and ability in these crucial areas.

### Demonstrate your social conscience with a certificate in Environmental Studies.

Students with an interest in the environment can earn a certificate in Environmental Studies by choosing specific environmental-focused courses from the anthropology, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, geography, global studies, humanities, literature, management, natural science, philosophy, political science, religious studies, sociology and theology disciplines. Students will learn about the scientific, humanistic, educational and business aspects of sustainability.

# Recommended Program

## Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

### FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
Philosophy Core elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech	3
Introduction to Literary Analysis	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modern Language	3
	15

### JUNIOR

Critical Theory/Creative Writing	3
Diversity elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
	15

Pre-1800 Literature	3
Literature elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
	15

### SOPHOMORE

American Literature I/Pre-1800 Literature	3
British Literature I/Pre-1800 Literature	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modern Language	3
	15

American Literature II/Post-1800 Literature	3
British Literature II/Post-1800 Literature	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Modern Language	3
	15

### SENIOR

Senior Seminar	3
300-level Literature elective	3
Modern English (especially Education majors or minors)	3
Electives	6
	15

Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3
300-level elective	3
300-level elective	3
Post-1800 Literature	3
Elective	3
	15

#### NOTES:

1. Successful completion of WRIT 101 and 102 (a grade of "C" or better) is a prerequisite for all English Language and Literature courses at the 200 level and above.
2. Students must take Introduction to Literary Analysis as early as possible in their coursework. Successful completion of this course (a grade of "C" or better) is a prerequisite for all English Language and Literature courses at the 300 level.
3. English Language and Literature students must take a minimum of 9 semester credit hours (three courses) in literatures before 1800 and a minimum of 9 semester credit hours (three courses) in literature after 1800.
4. An English Language and Literature major must complete a minimum of 39 semester credit hours (13 courses) with a grade of "C" or better. Thirty of these semester credit hours must be at the 200 level or above, including at least 15 semester credit hours at the 300 level of which one course must be the Senior Seminar.
5. Literature majors who are pursuing certification in English Language Arts at the middle or secondary school level should follow the major checklist for English Language and Literature with a Secondary Education minor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT: Successful completion of a senior thesis in Senior Seminar.

# Recommended Program

## Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature Secondary Education Minor

A Grade of "C" or better is required in all coursework required for licensure.

### FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)	3
Philosophical (QPL) course	3
American Government	3
Modern Language	3
American History	3
	18

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech	3
Introduction to Literary Analysis	3
Survey of Exceptional Child	3
Modern Language	3
Natural Science Modes of Inquiry elective	3
	18

### JUNIOR

Post-1800 Literature elective	3
Diversity Literature elective	3
Artistic and Creative (QCA) course	3
Measurement and Evaluation	3
Young Adult and Multicultural Literature in Middle and Secondary School Curriculum	3
	15

Pre-1800 Literature	3
Religions/Theological (QRT) course	3
Methods of Teaching Middle School/Preclinical	3
Social Scientific I: Individuals, Organizations and Societies (QIO)	3
Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301)	3
Reading, Writing and Thinking in Middle and Secondary School	3
	18

### SOPHOMORE

American Literature I/Pre-1800	3
Pre-1800 Literature	3
History and Philosophy of Education/Preclinical Technology for Teachers	4
Modern Language	3
Health and Wellness	2
	18

American Literature II/Post-1800	3
Post-1800 Literature	3
Educational Psychology	3
Natural Science Modes of Inquiry elective	3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201)	3
Modern Language	3
	18

### SENIOR

Methods of Teaching English Secondary Education/Preclinical	3
Senior Seminar	3
Literature elective	3
Modern English	3
Natural Science Modes of Inquiry elective and Lab	4
	16

Student Teaching	12
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