

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 writings of other nations in translation. 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, required for all majors. Formal advising for the program is begun 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, Voices of the American Experience, African-American Literature and Contemporary Global 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 include poetry 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 *Quantum Pulp*, a literary magazine, and *DuPage ArtsLife*, a professional arts journal.

The close working relationship between the Department of English and 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 certification requirements, help future educators build their portfolios and practice pedagogical skills, and incorporate 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 communicative, learning and reasoning skills. A minor is available for non-majors who wish to demonstrate versatility and ability in these crucial areas.

Demonstrate your concern for the environment 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 S105, S108 or S110)	3
Philosophy core elective	3
Social Science core elective	3
Modern Language	3
	15

Research Writing	3
Basic Speech Communication	3
Introduction to Literary Analysis	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Modern Language	3
	15

JUNIOR

Critical Theory/Creative Writing	3
Diversity Elective	3
Fine Arts core elective	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 240)	3
	15

Pre-1800 Literature	3
Literature Elective	3
Elective	3
Social Science core elective	3
Cultured Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
	15

SOPHOMORE

American Literature I/Pre-1800 Literature	3
British Literature I/Pre-1800 Literature	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220)	3
Modern Language	3
	15

American Literature II/Post-1800 Literature	3
British Literature II/Post-1800 Literature	3
Social Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230)	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

Natural Science core elective	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 in their first year. 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; “permission of instructor” may substitute at the discretion of the department.
3. English Language and Literature students must take a minimum of nine credit hours (three courses) in literatures before 1800 and a minimum of nine credit hours (three courses) in literatures after 1800.
4. An English Language and Literature major must complete a minimum of 39 credit hours (13 courses) with a grade of “C” or better. Thirty of these credit hours must be at the 200 level or above, including at least 15 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 Paper in Senior Seminar.

Recommended Program

Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature Secondary Education Minor

FRESHMAN

Writing Colloquium	3
Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110)	3
Philosophy core elective	3
American Government	3
Modern Language	3
American History	3
	18

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

JUNIOR

Post-1800 Literature elective	3
Diversity Literature elective	3
Fine Arts core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	3
Measurement and Evaluation	3
Young Adult and Multi-Cultural Literature in Middle and Secondary	3
	18

Pre-1800 Literature	3
Religious Studies core elective	3
Methods of Teaching Middle School/Preclinical	3
Economics	3
Cultured Heritage (HUMN 250)	3
Reading, Writing and Thinking in Middle and Secondary	3
	18

SOPHOMORE

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

American Literature II/Post-1800	3
Post-1800 Literature	3
Educational Psychology	3
Natural Science core elective	3
Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220, 230 or 240)	3
Modern Language	3
	18

SENIOR

Methods Teaching English Secondary Education/Preclinical	3
Senior Seminar	3
Literature Elective	3
Modern English	3
Natural Science with Lab	4
	16

Student Teaching	12
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