English

Although the traditional careers for English majors are teaching, editing, and writing, it is not unusual to find English majors in a wide variety of occupations.

The skills you acquire as an English major, centered on the ability to use the English language effectively, open doors to many careers:

- **Information-handling fields**: If you have strong professional training in communication, you might work in “information-handling” fields such as advertising, public relations, media relations, book and magazine publishing, technical and professional writing, and journalism. Also in this category, you will find rapidly expanding information-retrieval and exchange industries that require both technicians and broadly educated managerial personnel. Business and government seek employees who can communicate on a wide range of topics to serve as information officers and editors.

- **Teaching**: Secondary schools require teachers who are equipped to offer students the joys of language and literature, both written and spoken, informative and dramatic. Teachers trained in journalism and TESOL are also needed.

- **Law or Business**: Many English majors pursue graduate study in business or law.

### Degree Options

The Department of English at Youngstown State University offers three programs that lead to the Bachelor of Arts degree: English, professional writing and editing, and journalism. The department also offers minors in English, journalism, linguistics, TESOL, creative writing, and professional writing and editing, and advises students seeking teaching licensure in Integrated Language Arts and in Middle Childhood Language Arts.

An Individualized Curriculum Program in web design has recently been developed and is coordinated by the Departments of English and Computer and Information Systems.

**Honors**

Special scholarships for outstanding English majors are given through the Youngstown State University Foundation. The Robert R. Hare Awards are given annually to recognize distinction in critical, creative, and journalistic writing.

**Faculty**

Nearly all Department of English faculty members have earned Ph.D. degrees in their fields of specialization and have also published important work in their fields. All share a concern for providing you with high-quality instruction as well as academic and career-oriented counseling.

YSU maintains a faculty-student ratio of 1:20, among the best of state-affiliated universities in Ohio.

**Facilities**

The Department of English is housed in DeBartolo Hall. Available for your use is the Professional Communication Design and Production Center, comprising two specialized computer labs that enable you to work on state-of-the-art computers supporting such software packages as Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, Adobe PageMaker and Photoshop, Quark XPress, Microsoft Office and FrontPage, and Macromedia Dreamweaver.

The department’s writing programs are served by nine other computer labs, including a Macintosh lab for the journalism program.

You may use Maag Library’s ever-expanding resources, including more than a million volumes, online computer access to databases and other universities’ holdings, and records and cassettes on a wide variety of literary works.

**Outside the Classroom**

You may gain hands-on experience by becoming involved in activities outside of class:

- **Jambar/Penguin Review**: You may write for, or help publish, the Jambar, the student newspaper, or the Penguin Review,
the student literary magazine. By working for the Jambar, you will apply classroom instruction in news gathering, writing, design, and production to an actual newspaper operation. You will also gain a portfolio of clippings of the newspaper articles you write that are published.

- **Internships:** If you are a journalism or professional writing and editing major, you can obtain real-world experience serving in internships on and off campus. Internships are also available for students to work on creative writing programs and publications.

- **Writing Center:** The Department of English Writing Center offers you noncredit writing instruction. If you are an English major, you may apply for student employment as a peer tutor.

- **English Festival:** The English Festival, sponsored by the Department of English, is held each spring on the YSU campus. The event, designed to encourage young people to enjoy reading and writing, attracts several thousand junior and senior high school students.

- **Press Day:** Press Day, held each spring on the YSU campus, gives high school students an in-depth look at different types of media and the journalists who work in them. The event usually features well-known speakers in the field, various discussions and workshops, and journalism awards.

- **YSU Poetry Center:** You can attend readings by nationally recognized poets and novelists who come to the campus at the request of the YSU Poetry Center.

**Curriculum Overview**

For the major in English:

**Required courses**
- British & American Literature I or II
- Principles of Linguistics
- Senior Seminar

**Advanced writing courses**
- Feature Writing
- Editorial Writing
- Advanced Writing
- Advanced Writing for Teachers
- Professional and Technical Communication
- Proposal and Report Writing
- Fiction Writing Workshop
- Poetry Writing Workshop

**Multicultural studies**
- Women in Literature
- African Literature
- Images of Women
- Sociolinguistics

**American literary studies**
- American Literature in Historical Perspective
- American Genres
- Themes in American Literature
- Selected Topics in American Literature
- The Black Experience in American Literature

**British literary studies**
- Major Figures in British Literature
- Genres, Circles, and Movements in British Literature
- The Medieval World
- Shakespeare and His World
- The English Renaissance
- Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Literature
- The Romantic Period
- Nineteenth-Century British Literature Studies
- Early Twentieth-Century British Studies
- British Literature from World War II to the Present

**Other electives**
- World Literature
- American Literature & Diversity
- Mythology in Literature
- Introduction to Film Study
- Literature for Young Children
- Middle School Literature
- Young Adult Literature
- Topics in World Literature
- Language and Culture
- Development of the English Language
- Film Genres
- Professional and Technical Editing
- Language Acquisition
- Advanced Linguistics
- TESOL Methods
- TESOL Practicum
- English Grammar
- Selected Topics in Discourse
- Selected Topics in Film

For more information about this program, go to
[www.ysu.edu](http://www.ysu.edu), click on Colleges, then College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences