English, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts
- BA in English/Secondary Education (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/englishseced/)

Nature of the Program

Tailor your degree in English to your interests by focusing on literature and cultural studies, creative writing, English secondary education, or professional writing. Explore the power of language to open doors, shape worlds, and realize dreams. How will you contribute to the world?

Focusing on **Literature and Cultural Studies** allows you to immerse yourself in the books, films, and other texts that define our global culture. Cultivate critical thinking, communication, and research skills to fill your tool box for a lifetime of learning and engagement while preparing for a variety of professional schools and career paths.

An emphasis on **Creative Writing** lets you study the craft of writing fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction with accomplished authors. Take workshops on writing for children, writing and photography, and writing about place. Meet the many authors invited to read on campus and help produce *Calliope*, WVU's undergraduate literary journal.

With an emphasis on **Professional Writing and Editing** you will learn to translate complex information into clear prose for diverse audiences and analyze how information flows through organizational structures. Apply these skills in a capstone internship with a local business, non-profit, or government agency to see your writing come alive.

Can you name a teacher who made a difference in your life or a book that changed how you think? With a Bachelor of Arts in **English/Secondary Education** you can bring those experiences to others. You'll complete all the requirements for teacher certification in WV and gain valuable classroom experience. Please see the English/Secondary Education (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/eberlycollegeofartsandsciences/englishseced/) listing for more information.

Students who earn a degree in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences must complete the University requirements, the College requirements for their specific degree program, and their major requirements. English is a SpeakWrite (https://speakwrite.wvu.edu/) certified program.

3+3 Program

The Department of English participates in the 3+3 Program with the WVU College of Law, which is an opportunity for qualified undergraduate students to earn their bachelor's degree and law degree in six years instead of seven years. Students accepted into the 3+3 program begin taking classes at WVU Law in what would be their senior year of college. Students participating in this program must meet certain eligibility criteria and progress benchmarks. For questions regarding your eligibility, please contact your department advisor.

Minors

All students have the possibility of earning one or more minors; follow the link for a list of all available minors and their requirements (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/minors/). Please note that students may not earn a minor in their major field.

Publications

Calliope, a publication of WVU student writing, is sponsored by the Department of English.

Hellbender Magazine is a literary magazine edited by MFA students and the Council of Writers of the West Virginia University MFA program.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)

ASSISTANT CHAIR

- Christine Hoffmann - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)

M.A. & PH.D. SUPERVISOR

- Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)

M.F.A. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

- Mark Brazaitis - M.F.A. (Bowling Green University)

M.A. P.W.E. PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

- Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)

PROFESSORS

- Brian Ballentine - Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University)
  Technical and Professional Communication, Rhetoric
- Mark Brazaitis - M.F.A. (Bowling Green University)
  Creative Writing: Fiction
- Lara Farina - Ph.D. (Fordham University)
  Medieval Literature and Culture, History of Sexuality and Reading
- Catherine Gouge - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Professional Writing, Medical Rhetoric
- Adam Komisaruk - Ph.D. (University of California Los Angeles)
  British Romanticism, 18th-century British Literature
- Kathleen O'Hearn Ryan - Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts)
  20th-century American Literature
- Mary Ann Samyn - M.F.A. (University of Virginia)
  Creative Writing: Poetry
- Natalie Singh-Corcoran - Ph.D. (University of Arizona)
  Writing Center Theory and Practice, Writing Program Administration, Writing Assessment
- Timothy Sweet - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
  Eberly Family Distinguished Professor of American Literature, American Studies, Literature and Environment, Native American Literature

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

- Erin Brock-Carlson - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Professional Writing and Editing
- Rose Casey - Ph.D. (Cornell University)
  Modern British Literature
- Anna Shannon Elfenbein - Ph.D. (University of Nebraska)
  American Literature, Women's Studies, Southern Literature, African-American Fiction, Popular Culture
- Christine Hoffmann - Ph.D. (University of Arkansas)
  Early Modern British Studies
- Christa Parravani - M.F.A. (Rutgers University)
  Creative Writing: Non-fiction
- Jennifer Sano-Franchini - Ph.D. (Michigan State University)
  Rhetoric and Writing
- David Stewart - Ph.D. (Oxford University)
  Associate Vice President for International Outreach. British Romanticism, Literary Theory
- Lisa Weihman - Ph.D. (New York University)
  Modern British and Irish Literature and Culture

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

- Ben Bascom - Ph.D. (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
  Early and Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Queer Studies
- Brian Broome - M.F.A. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Creative Writing: Non-fiction
- Jenny Johnson - M.F.A. (Warren Wilson College)
  Poetry
- Sarah Morris - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
  Human Science Phenomenology, Embodiment, Writing Process, and Student-centered Teaching
- Amanda Berardi Tennant - Ph.D. (Carnegie Mellon University)
  Composition and Rhetoric
- Mitch Therieau - Ph.D. (Stanford University)
  Contemporary Literature, Material Culture, Aesthetic Theory

- Jill Woods - Ph.D. (West Virginia University)
  Business and Technical writing
- Omar Yacoub - Ph.D. (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
  Composition and Applied Linguistics

PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Gail Galloway Adams - M.A. (University of Texas)
- Rudolph Almasy - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
- Gwen Bergner - Ph.D. (Princeton University)
- Laura Brady - Ph.D. (University of Minnesota)
- Cari Carpenter - Ph.D. (University of Michigan)
- Patrick Conner - Ph.D. (University of Maryland)
- Marilyn Francus - Ph.D. (Columbia University)
- Michael Germana - Ph.D. (University of Iowa)
- Rosemary Hathaway - Ph.D. (Ohio State)
- Kirk Hazen - Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Ellesa High - Ph.D. (University of Ohio)
- Iris Jennings - Ph.D.
- Elizabeth Juckett - Ph.D. (Penn)
- John Lamb - Ph.D. (New York University)
- Byron Nelson - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
- Carolyn Nelson - Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin)
- Kevin Oderman - Ph.D. (University California, Santa Barbara)
- Ethel Morgan Smith - M.A. (Hollins College)

Admissions for 2027-2028

- First Time Freshmen are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with fewer than 24 credits and 2.0 overall GPA are admitted directly to the major.
- Students transferring from another WVU major or from another institution with 24 credits or more and at least a 2.0 overall GPA must meet the following requirement prior to being admitted to the major: a 2.0 in all ENGL classes taken.

Major Code: 1442

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. 5)

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research	
or ENGL 103	Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3

F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	**31-37**

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete WVU General Education Foundations requirements, Eberly Edge Program requirements, major requirements, and electives to total a minimum 120 hours.

Departmental Requirements for the B.A. in English

- **Calculation of GPA in the major**: A minimum grade of C- is required in all courses applied to the major, including ENGL 101 and ENGL 102, or ENGL 103. If a course is repeated, all attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA, unless the course is eligible for a D/F repeat.
- **Writing Requirement:** The English Bachelor of Arts is a **SpeakWrite Certified Program™**. SpeakWrite Certified programs incorporate and develop students' written, verbal, visual, and mediated communication skills across the curriculum.
- **Area of Emphasis**: in addition to the major requirements, students must select an emphasis in Creative Writing, Literature and Cultural Studies, or Professional Writing and Editing. Please see below for course and grade requirements for each emphasis. All courses taken for the AoE must be distinct from the major requirements.
- **Capstone Requirement**: The university requires the successful completion of a Capstone course. English majors choose, depending on focus, ENGL 418, ENGL 496, or WRIT 480 to meet this requirement. Students should consult with an adviser regarding the Capstone course.
- **Credit Limitation**: A maximum of 46 hours in English, exclusive of ENGL 199, ENGL 101 and ENGL 102, or ENGL 103, ENGL 491 may be included within the 120 hours (minimum) required for graduation.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
University Requirements		71
Eberly Edge Program		13
English Major Requirements		36
Total Hours		**120**

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8		33
ENGL 191	First-Year Seminar	1
General Electives		37
Total Hours		**71**

Eberly Edge Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDG 1: Data and Society		3
EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication		3
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility		3
EDG 4: Global and Regional Perspectives (met by GMT major requirements)		
EDG 5: Practicing Arts & Sciences (ARSC 380)		1
EDG 6: High Impact Experience		3
Total Hours		**13**

English Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Foundation Course		**3**
ENGL 200	Foundations of Literary Study	

Historical Breadth Courses		**6**
Select two of the following:		
ENGL 241	American Literature 1	
ENGL 242	American Literature 2	
ENGL 261	British Literature 1	
ENGL 262	British Literature 2	
English Language course		**3**
ENGL 221	The English Language	
or WRIT 302	Editing	
Gender/Multicultural/Transnational courses		**6**
Select two of the following, at least one of which must be at the 300-level:		
ENGL 226	Non-Western World Literature	
ENGL 252	Appalachian Fiction	
ENGL 254	African American Literature	
ENGL 255	Multiethnic Literature	
ENGL 285	Images of Women in Literature	
ENGL 288	Gender and Sexuality in Literature and Film	
ENGL 352	Topics in Appalachian Studies	
ENGL 355	Topics in Multiethnic Literature	
ENGL 356	Topics in Native American Literature	
ENGL 374	Global Anglophone Literature	
ENGL 385	American Women Writers	
ENGL 386	British Women Writers	
ENGL 387	Topics in Women's Literature	
ENGL 388	Topics in Gay/Lesbian Studies	
Study of Major Author Courses		**3**
Select one of the following:		
ENGL 337	Study of a Major Author	
ENGL 361	Chaucer	
ENGL 363	Shakespeare 2	
ENGL 365	Milton	
Area of Emphasis		**12**
Select an Area of Emphasis in Creative Writing, Literature and Cultural Studies, or Professional Writing and Editing.		
Capstone Experience		**3**
Select one of the following based on the Area of Emphasis selected:		
ENGL 418	Creative Writing Seminar	
ENGL 496	Senior Thesis	
WRIT 480	Capstone Internship	
Total Hours		**36**

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3	ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
ENGL 191	1	ENGL Historical Breadth 1 (GEF 6)	3
ENGL 200	3	EDG 2: Effective and Civil Communication	3
EDG 1: Data and Society	3	F2A	3
F2A	3	F4	3
General Elective	2		
	15		**15**

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
WRIT 302 or ENGL 221	3	ENGL Gender/Multicultural/Transnational 1 (EDG 4)	3
ENGL Historical Breadth 2	3	EDG 6: High Impact Experience	3
EDG 3: Ethics and Civil Responsibility	3	F7	3
F3	3	F8 Course 1*	3
F5	3	General Elective	3
	15		**15**

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL Gender/Mlt Cult./Transnat. 2	3	ENGL Major Author	3
AoE Course 1	3	F8 Course 3*	3
F8 Course 2*	3	AoE Course 2	3
ARSC 380 (EDG 5)	1	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	2		
	15		**15**

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
AoE Course 3	3	ENGL Capstone	3
AoE Course 4	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
	15		**15**

Total credit hours: 120

* Students completing a minor, a double major or a dual degree fulfill the GEF 8 requirement.

Areas of Emphasis Offered:

- Creative Writing (p. 6)
- Literary and Cultural Studies (p. 7)
- Professional Writing and Editing (PWE) (p. 7)

CREATIVE WRITING AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Minimum grade of C- or higher is required.		
Select one course in each group:		
Group 1:		**3**
ENGL 212	Creative Writing: Fiction	
ENGL 213	Creative Writing: Poetry	
ENGL 214	Creative Writing: Non-Fiction	
Group 2:		**3**
ENGL 312	Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction	
ENGL 313	Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry	
ENGL 314	Creative Writing Workshop: Non-Fiction	
Group 3:		**3**
ENGL 318	Topics in Creative Writing	
Group 4:		**3**
ENGL 212	Creative Writing: Fiction	
ENGL 213	Creative Writing: Poetry	

ENGL 214	Creative Writing: Non-Fiction	
ENGL 312	Creative Writing Workshop: Fiction	
ENGL 313	Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry	
ENGL 314	Creative Writing Workshop: Non-Fiction	
Total Hours		**12**

LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Minimum grade of C- or higher is required.		
Select one of the following courses:		3
ENGL 338	Environmental Criticism	
ENGL 382	Contemporary Literary Theory	
ENGL 383	Introduction to Cultural Studies	
ENGL 384	Introduction to American Studies	
Literature Electives 300 level or above *		9
Total Hours		**12**

* Excludes courses required for the Creative Writing and Professional Writing and Editing Areas of Emphasis.

PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING (PWE) AREA OF EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS

Code	Title	Hours
Minimum grade of C- or higher is required.		
Select four of the following options:		**12**
WRIT 201	Public Writing	
or WRIT 202	Introduction to Writing Studies	
WRIT 301	Writing Theory and Practice	
WRIT 302	Editing	
WRIT 303	Multimedia Writing	
or WRIT 306	Topics in Digital Humanities	
WRIT 304	Business and Professional Writing	
or WRIT 305	Technical Writing	
WRIT 402	Publishing	
WRIT 403	Grant Proposal Writing for Community & Industry	
WRIT 407	Writing Health and Medicine: Narrative Approaches and Professional Practice	
WRIT 408	Writing Science for Public and Scientific Audiences	
Total Hours		**12**

3+3 Program Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 191	1	ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
ENGL 199	1	Foreign Language 102	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3	ENGL Historical Breadth 1 (ECAS Fine Arts Req.; GEF 6)	3
ENGL 200	3	GEF 3	3
Foreign Language 101	3	GEF 4	3
GEF 2B	4		
	15		**15**

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 5	3	GEF 7	3

ENGL Historical Breadth 2	3	EDG 4: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES	3
ENGL Language Course	3	ENGL GMT 2	3
ENGL GMT 1	3	ENGL Major Author Course	3
EDG 3: ETHICS AND CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY	3	AoE Course 1	3
	15		**15**

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
AoE Course 2	3	AoE Course 4	3
AoE Course 3	3	ENGL Capstone (EDG 6)	3
ARSC 380 (EDG 5)	1	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	2		
	15		**15**

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
LAW 641	1	LAW 675	1
LAW 686	4	LAW 703	4
LAW 700	3	LAW 707	4
LAW 705	3	LAW 711	2
LAW 709	4	LAW 725	4
	15		**15**

Total credit hours: 120

Degree Progress

- At the end of their second semester in the program, students will have completed ENGL 101, 102, 191, 199, and 200.
- After three semesters students will have completed 9 additional credits of ENGL courses above ENGL 200.
- After four semesters in the program, students will have completed 12 additional credits in ENGL.
- All majors must meet with an English department adviser each semester.

Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their major.

Major Learning Outcomes

ENGLISH

Upon successful completion of the B.A. degree, **English** majors will be able to:

1. Locate and interpret texts within diverse literary, cultural, and historical contexts.

- Identify genre conventions and analyze their effects;
- Identify and analyze effects of complexity or ambiguity in texts, culture, and discourse;
- Situate texts in social, economic, political, and literary histories;
- Connect texts to other literary or cultural texts.

2. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the social and structural aspects of the English language.

- Analyze diachronic and synchronic language variation;
- Articulate the role of social forces on language variation;
- Apply linguistic concepts to solve language problems;
- Analyze natural language, predominantly English.

3. Demonstrate a range of contextually effective writing and communication strategies.

Literature and Cultural Studies:

- Demonstrate awareness of academic discourse and research on a literary topic;
- Apply research, analysis, argumentative development, and critical thinking skills;

- Create and revise communications with the appropriate tone, style, and sentence structure found in academic writing, including incorporation of research;
- Demonstrate command of academic written English and conventions of documenting research.

Creative Writing concentration:

- Situate work within the historical and literary development of the appropriate genre;
- Create and revise a thoughtful, sophisticated work of art that is the product of a careful process of invention and revision;
- Demonstrate a personal and coherent artistic style;
- Demonstrate a sophisticated awareness of and engagement with (or clear challenge of) conventions of the genre.

Professional Writing and Editing concentration:

- Demonstrate an awareness of, and response to, the particular rhetorical needs of audience and purpose;
- Demonstrate an awareness of genre and argument, including appropriate information and persuasive techniques. In addition, the portfolio demonstrates a critical engagement with the process of writing and with the intern’s learning process;
- Demonstrate an awareness of professional tone, style, and sentence structure;
- Understand and apply layout, visual design, audience cues, and information structure; adheres to the written conventions of professional writing.