The opportunities are broad when you pursue a Bachelor of Arts in English from National University. The communication and critical thinking skills you will learn as an English major are highly sought after and will help you advance in almost any field. You’ll be prepared to join arenas such as advertising, the broadcast arts, or the rapidly evolving publishing world. Many program graduates pursue further study in English, law, or education.

The English BA is a writing-intensive program that focuses on literary analysis, diversity, and critical thinking through the study of major writers, works, movements, and periods of the British and American literary traditions. Assessing literary works can be both educational and pleasurable, and if you’re interested in creative writing, you may choose the concentration in Creative Writing.

Program Highlights:
- Entire program can be completed online; all online classes are asynchronous and highly interactive
- Students work closely with full-time program faculty who have a broad range of interests
- Courses foster an appreciation for and enjoyment of literature, as well as important skills such as critical thinking and critical reflection, close reading, and researching and writing in the discipline
- Optional concentration in Creative Writing, with emphases on fiction and poetry
- Students who meet the criteria have the opportunity to participate in Sigma Tau Delta, an international English Honor Society
The Bachelor of Arts in English provides a strong background in the study of English. The program stresses literary analysis, diversity, critical thinking, and written and oral communication skills through a rigorous curriculum of literature, composition, language and linguistics, and communication studies. It is an excellent preparation for careers in teaching, media, advertising, writing, and publishing; for graduate or professional studies in English, communications, or law; and for advancement in any field in which communication skills are important. Students interested in creative writing may choose the Concentration in Creative Writing.

Note: Students interested in teaching English or Language Arts in middle or secondary schools should consider enrolling in the Bachelor of Arts in English with Single-Subject Matter Preparation and Inspired Teaching and Learning Preliminary Single-Subject Teaching Credential (CALIFORNIA).

BA English/MA English and BA English/MFA Creative Writing Transition Programs

Students enrolled in the BA English program who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and are within six courses of completing the BA program may register for the BA English/MA English or BA English/MFA Creative Writing transition programs. They do so by asking their admissions advisor to submit a plan change into the transition program.

Students in the BA English/MA English transition program may take any one 600-level ENG course (excluding ENG 689 or ENG 699) as an elective within the BA English program. For students in the BA English/MA English transition program, the University will waive one MA English course taken as part of the BA degree if the grade earned is a “B” or higher.

No graduate units will be awarded. The University will waive the MA English or MCW course taken as part of the BA degree. However, students must still meet the residency requirements for the MA English or MFA Creative Writing programs (45 quarter units). Students must apply to and begin the MA English or MFA Creative Writing programs within six months of completing the BA English program. A complete description of Transition Program requirements can be found in the Policies and Procedures section of this catalog.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Knowledgably discuss the major writers, works, movements, and periods of the British and American literary traditions.
- Evaluate the relationship of marginalized or oppositional voices to the evolution of literary traditions.
- Analyze literary works within their historical and cultural contexts.
- Analyze works of literature in the context of the conventions and histories of their genres.
- Analyze the use and effects of literary and rhetorical features of literary texts.
- Identify major critical approaches to the interpretation of literature.
- Compose sophisticated written works of literary analysis, incorporating appropriate close reading, research, and writing skills.

Degree Requirements

To receive the Bachelor of Arts in English degree, students must complete at least 180 quarter units as articulated below, 45 of which must be completed in residence at National University, 76.5 of which must be completed at the upper-division level, and a minimum 70.5 units of the University General Education requirements. In the absence of transfer credit, additional general electives may be necessary to satisfy total units for the degree. The following courses are specific degree requirements. Students should refer to the section on undergraduate admission procedures for specific information on admission and evaluation. All students receiving an undergraduate degree in Nevada are required by state law to complete a course in Nevada Constitution.

Preparation for the Major

(1 course; 4.5 quarter units)

LIT 100* Introduction to Literature
Prerequisite: ENG 100 and ENG 101

* May be used to satisfy a General Education requirement.

Additional Preparation for Major in English with Concentration in Creative Writing

(2 courses; 9 quarter units)

Choose two (2) of the following:

ENG 201 Fiction Writing I
Prerequisite: ENG 101

OR

ENG 202 Poetry Writing I
Prerequisite: ENG 101

OR

ENG 203 Screenwriting I
Prerequisite: ENG 101

Requirements for the Major

(9 courses; 40.5 quarter units)

Choose any four (4) of the following five (5) survey courses:

LIT 311 British Literature I
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

OR

LIT 312 British Literature II
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

OR

LIT 321 American Literature I
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

OR

LIT 322 American Literature II
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

OR

LIT 360 History of Literary Theory
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

AND

LIT 338 Shakespeare
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

LIT 365 Contemporary Literary Theory
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

LIT 463 20th Century World Literature
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

Any one (1) of the following three (3) courses:

LIT 410 African American Literature
Prerequisite: LIT 100 and ENG 240

OR

LIT 420 U.S. Latino Literature
Prerequisite: LIT 100 and ENG 240

OR

LIT 460 Gender and Literature
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

AND

LIT 498 English Capstone Course
Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of 8 upper-division LIT courses

Upper-Division Electives for English Major without Creative Writing Concentration

(7 courses; 31.5 quarter units)

Any two (2) additional upper-division LIT courses

AND

One (1) of the following:

ART 315 Film as Art
Prerequisite: ENG 100 and ENG 101

COM 360 Representation in the Media
Prerequisite: ENG 100 and ENG 101

(without Creative Writing Concentration)
COM 385  Interactive Storytelling  
Prerequisite: ENG 101

ENG 301  Fiction Writing II  
Prerequisite: ENG 201

ENG 302  Poetry Writing II  
Prerequisite: ENG 202

ENG 303  Screenwriting II  
Prerequisite: ENG 203

ENG 310  English Grammar  
Prerequisite: ENG 101

ENG 350  Fundamentals of Linguistics  
Prerequisite: ENG 100 and ENG 101

ENG 352  Origins of English  
Prerequisite: ENG 100 and ENG 101

ENG 375  Nature Writing  
Prerequisite: ENG 100, ENG 101 and ENG 240 or ENG 334A

AND

Any four (4) additional upper-division courses in the College of Letters and Sciences.

OR

Concentration in Creative Writing

Program Lead: Colin Dickey; (310) 662-2131; cdickey@nu.edu

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

• Discuss the basic conventions of at least two different contemporary creative genres.

• Produce completed works of publishable quality in those genres.

• Read their own work critically and employ revision strategies to improve it to publishable standards.

• Critique the writing of others in a collegial setting and offer constructive suggestions for improving it to publishable quality.

• Produce a significant project of publishable quality in one genre.

Concentration Requirements

(8 courses; 36 quarter units)

Two (2) of the following:

ENG 301  Fiction Writing II  
Prerequisite: ENG 201

ENG 302  Poetry Writing II  
Prerequisite: ENG 202

ENG 303  Screenwriting II  
Prerequisite: ENG 203

ENG 375  Nature Writing  
Prerequisite: ENG 100, ENG 101 and ENG 240 or ENG 334A

AND

One (1) of the following:

ENG 401  Fiction Workshop  
Prerequisite: ENG 301

ENG 402  Poetry Workshop  
Prerequisite: ENG 302

ENG 403  Screenwriting Workshop  
Prerequisite: ENG 303

AND

One (1) of the following:

LIT 401  Contemporary Fiction  
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

LIT 402  Contemporary Poetry  
Prerequisite: ENG 240 and LIT 100

AND

Any two (2) additional upper-division LIT courses

AND

Any two (2) additional upper-division courses in the College of Letters and Sciences.

For complete program information, see the National University Catalog 83, effective July 2020.