MAJOR IN ENGLISH

The English department at CSU is a vibrant and diverse community. We are home to poets and linguists, literacy researchers and teacher educators, novelists and literary scholars, composition specialists and writers of creative nonfiction. We share a passion for exploring the multiple and dynamic ways that the English language is used to meet the demands of life in the twenty-first century. Students, staff, and faculty are committed to inclusive excellence, intellectual growth, and the creation of a more just and sustainable world.

English majors develop an understanding of diverse cultures, literary traditions, and great works of English, American, and world literature. Students expand their ability to analyze a variety of texts and view them through the lenses of diverse critical perspectives. Majors develop the ability to write for both specialized and general audiences. There are five concentrations from which students can choose:

- Creative Writing,
- English Education,
- Language,
- Literature, or
- Writing, Rhetoric and Literacy.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the B.A. in English, the accomplished graduate shall be able to:

- work with, explain, or analyze English-language writings of the broadest textual range with an eye practiced in close-reading, historical context, and rigorous critical judgment;
- write with flexibility, effectiveness, and originality for diverse rhetorical purposes and audiences;
- read and write with technical awareness of language foundations, contexts of literacy, multi-modal environments, and theories of discourse and meaning; and
- integrate English literacy (disciplinary methods of reading and analysis) with interdisciplinary knowledge and action.

Potential Occupations

A major in English prepares students for business, government, or education careers that require broadly educated people who can think critically, communicate effectively, analyze texts, and write well. Many employers appreciate liberal arts majors for their multiple skills and their ability to adapt to a variety of tasks and work environments.

The department encourages experiential education by offering a variety of internship opportunities. Students are also invited to generate their own positions in fields of interests, as well as pursue established local, regional, or national internships. Graduates who go on for advanced studies can attain more responsible positions with the possibility of rising to top professional levels.

Depending on a student’s interests, the electives taken, or the concentration selected, available career choices include, but are not limited to: copy editor; project editor; manuscript reader or story analyst; sales representative; publicity and promotion specialist; advertising coordinator; production specialist; assistant book publicist; contracts and permission specialist; agency or arts administrator; human resource manager; human services program developer; public relations; English teacher; teacher of English as a second language; curriculum developer; education administrator; grant writer; technical writer for business, industry, or science; magazine, newspaper, television, education, or government writer; biographer or writer of prose, fiction, or nonfiction; lyricist.

Concentrations

- Creative Writing Concentration
- English Education Concentration
- Language Concentration
- Literature Concentration
- Writing, Rhetoric and Literacy Concentration