



Why English?

Today "English" includes more and does more than ever! If you're interested in Shakespeare, Joyce, or Woolf, then the English major is for you. If you're interested in scoring well on the LSAT or getting ahead in the job market with clear, concise writing, the strongest reading skills to be had and persuasive argumentation, then the English major is for you, too. If you're interested in creative writing, film, women's studies, issues of race and difference, Southern literature, contemporary fiction, linguistics, or theatre, then this major is also for you!

Members of our faculty have published on science and medicine in literature, twentieth-century art, the American West and the frontier, black and white dialects of American English, Gay and Lesbian Studies, and contemporary revisions in the literary canon, as well as on more traditional topics such as Milton, Faulkner, and T. S. Eliot. Duke is an institution where traditional topics and the cutting edge are not separate ideas. Students studying English often pursue these interests in graduate school, while consulting firms, law schools, and medical schools have attracted most English majors in recent years. Less mainstream paths also abound, such as professional writing, design, and the theatre scene.



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For more reasons why English
is an accomplished pathway visit
english.duke.edu

The Creative Writing Minor at Duke

The English Department

is home to the creative writing faculty at Duke. We offer introductory, intermediate and advanced courses in fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction, including specialized courses on topics that intersect with disciplines beyond English – Playwriting, Writing Across Borders, and Writing about Research. Our creative writing faculty are widely-published novelists, poets, playwrights and essayists who have received many honors, including the National Book Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Whiting Award, a McDowell Colony Fellowship, and the PEN/Hemingway Award. Creative writing workshops are intimate seminar courses where students can explore various genres at once or hone their craft in a single genre of writing. The department also offers opportunities for students to work directly with Blackburn Visiting Writers. In addition to The Blackburn Reading Series, which brings distinguished contemporary authors to campus each year, we host the ongoing Little Corner Reading Series and annual undergraduate creative writing contests in fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.



The Creative Writing Minor

is comprised of 5 courses. For English majors who want to minor in creative writing, two courses required for the major will be allowed to overlap and fulfill the requirements of the minor.

Option 1

- English 110S: Introduction to Creative Writing
- Two courses in creative writing at the 200-level or above
- One course in creative writing at the 300-level or above
- One additional course in English, other than creative writing, at the 200-level or above

Option 2

- Three courses in creative writing at the 200-level or above
- One course in creative writing at the 300-level or above
- One additional course in English, other than creative writing, at the 200-level or above



Graduate with Distinction

For creative writing minors who are also English majors, students may opt to pursue distinction in the major by completing a Creative Writing thesis. For this option, English majors need eleven courses to graduate instead of ten. Students enroll in two independent study courses with a single advisor (spring-fall or fall-spring of the senior year), with the goal of producing a 35-70 page piece of creative writing. Three faculty members read each project, and the project is granted a distinction level (highest, high, or distinction) based on an average of their reports.

