

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

B413 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Phone: 703-993-1160
Website: english.gmu.edu

Undergraduate Programs

The department offers a bachelors of arts degree in English and a bachelor of fine arts degree in creative writing.

English, BA

The bachelors of arts degree in English is a versatile major with seven concentrations designed to meet students' individual interests and career objectives. English majors can also do an internship in technical writing or linguistics. Students interested in becoming teachers can participate in a program offered in conjunction with the College of Education and Human Development that allows undergraduates to simultaneously complete their BA in English and their licensure requirements to teach English at the secondary school level in Virginia.

English majors learn to read critically and write carefully in classes that are uniquely small for a university the size of Mason. Students develop these abilities not only through reading traditional texts but also through the use of technologies such as blogs, wikis, and multimedia production. Because English majors have excellent skills in written and oral communication, research, critical thinking, and focused creativity they are well prepared for any career - teaching, journalism, creative writing, management, law, and more.

Creative Writing, BFA

The bachelor of fine arts degree in creative writing encourages freedom of thought, speech, and inquiry. Through its innovative courses, the program enables students to exercise analytical and imaginative thinking. Through its combined classroom and work-world curriculum, it prepares students to make well-founded ethical decisions. The degree offers three concentrations allowing for the opportunity to learn the conventions of several genres.

300-level courses in English and linguistics teach the foundational principles for a field of study, include courses of broad scope, and provide an introduction to a genre, literary period, or methodology.

400-level courses in English and linguistics provide an in-depth approach to a field of study, a single genre, literary period, or methodology. They include special topics classes and English honors classes. Some 400-level courses require ENGH 305 Dimensions of Writing and Literature as a prerequisite.

English with a Second Major

Students can combine a major in English with a second major. Students interested in this option are encouraged to discuss their plans with their English advisor. See section AP.5.3.7 Credit for More than One Undergraduate Major in Undergraduate Policies.

Minors

The department offers a minor in English, which is available to students in any major at Mason.

Faculty from English coordinate or co-coordinate the minors: Film and Media Studies, Folklore and Mythology, Linguistics, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Professional and Technical Writing, and Teaching English as a Second Language.

Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Program

The department offers highly qualified undergraduates in any major the opportunity to apply to an accelerated master's of arts degree program in English with a concentration in linguistics (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/english/english-ma/#acceleratedmasterstext>). If accepted, students will be able to earn an undergraduate degree in their chosen major and a graduate degree in English with a concentration in linguistics after satisfactory completion of 144 credits, generally within five years.

Undergraduates in Graduate Courses

The English Department permits qualified undergraduates to enroll in its graduate courses numbered 500 through 699. They may apply these credits to their undergraduate degree or mark them for reserve graduate credit. See the department for details on how to register.

Graduate Programs

The department offers graduate programs in the study and practice of literature, writing, rhetoric, and linguistics, as well as course work in related fields such as folklore, film, and cultural studies. The master's of arts degree in English provides concentrations in literature, cultural studies, professional writing and rhetoric, the teaching of writing and literature, and linguistics. The department also has a terminal degree, the master of fine arts in creative writing, with concentrations in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Also offered are doctoral programs in linguistics and writing and rhetoric.

The department offers graduate certificates in folklore studies, professional writing and editing with a concentration in professional and technical writing, college teaching with a concentration in English pedagogy, and teaching English as a second language. Students may take these as stand-alone certificates or pursue them concurrently with a graduate degree program. In many cases part of the course work for a certificate may also count toward a degree. Students must apply and be admitted to a graduate certificate program.

Faculty from the department coordinate the concentration in folklore studies in the master's degree in interdisciplinary studies (MAIS).

Funding

The department offers teaching assistantships and fellowships awarded on a competitive basis. Other sources of funding such as grants, loans, and employment on campus are also available. Students awarded assistantships must show satisfactory progress toward their degree.

Writing Center

The Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>) offers one-on-one conferencing during all stages of the writing process. Writing Center tutors, who are graduate teaching assistants in the English Department, have been trained in current methods of composition instruction. They help clients overcome writing anxiety, develop organizational and revision skills, and learn useful strategies for editing their own work. To learn more about the Writing Center services or to schedule an

appointment, students should consult the Writing Center website (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>).

Northern Virginia Writing Project

The Northern Virginia Writing Project (NVWP) (<http://nvwp.org>) is a professional development organization dedicated to improving writing instruction, writing practice, and learning at all educational levels, and to developing teacher leaders across the disciplines.

Each summer, selected teachers attend an intensive four-week institute where they demonstrate successful teaching methods, develop their own writing lives, and study the latest research and theory on the learning and teaching of writing. After the summer institute, participants receive the designation of Teacher Consultant and join over 900 other teachers in carrying out the work of the NVWP. The NVWP is an affiliate of the National Writing Project and one of the six sites of the Virginia Writing Project.

Faculty

Department Faculty

Professors

Albanese, Ardis, Clark, Foster, Goodwin, Habila, Kaufmann, Keith, Matz, Pankey, Tichy

Associate Professors

Amireh, Anderson, Atkinson, Brkic, Burr, Eisner, Eyman, Fuchs, Gallehr, Harvey, Hoefler, James, Lattanzi Shutika (chair), Lockwood, Malouf, Michals, Reid, Rogers, Samuelian, Scarlata, Streckfus, Weinberger, Wheelock, Wulf, Yadav

Assistant Professors

Burek, Chakravarty, Denevi, Dorpenyo, El-Hibri, Gatling, Gilman, Holmes, Kwon, LaFrance, Lawrence, Monea, Schreiner, Wooten

Term Professors

Koch, Matthews, Scott, Taciuch, Thompson

Term Associate Professors

Berg, King, Lister, Matthews, Nanian, Saunders, Taylor

Term Assistant Professors

Azar, Davis, Doetsch-Kidder, Fernandez, Fitzpatrick, Flannagan, Folan, Goldenthal, Green, Habib, Haspel, Howell, Lawrence, Liberatore, Lukyanenko, Mack, McDonald, Messier, O'Connor, Orlando, Paul, Photos, Rigdon, Rudnicki, Savage, Shreve, Sorvillo, Wilhelm

Term Instructors

Baker, Fernandez, Hoy, Killiany, Pettibon, Ready

Adjunct Assistant Professors

Broyles, Cabral, Carbo, Casal, DeFazio, Dutta, Fowler, Jacobs, Johnston, Laptad, Kuhta, Orlando, Pabich, Patrick, Sorvillo

Adjunct Instructors

Holcomb

Programs

- College Teaching Graduate Certificate (ENGL)
- Creative Writing, BFA
- Creative Writing, MFA
- Digital Media and Web Design Minor (CHSS)
- English Minor
- English, BA
- English, MA
- Film and Media Studies Minor
- Folklore Studies Graduate Certificate
- Folklore and Mythology Minor
- Linguistics Minor
- Linguistics, PhD
- Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor
- Professional Writing and Editing Graduate Certificate (ENGL)
- Professional and Technical Writing Minor
- Teaching English as a Second Language Graduate Certificate
- Teaching English as a Second Language Minor
- Writing and Rhetoric, PhD