

ENGLISH (BA)

Arts and Technologies

Through focused study in literature, language, and writing, English majors at Plymouth State University develop the essential skills of critical thinking, cogent analysis, and effective communication. The major explores both canonical and non-canonical texts in British, American, and Global literatures, and introduces students to trends in literary history and to contemporary questions raised by theorists and literary critics. Our renowned writing curriculum helps students develop their own original voices in both imaginative and expository writing. This core curriculum, along with 16 credits of Advanced Study (3000/4000 level) in EN courses of the student's choosing, comprises the standard English major and prepares students well for a variety of life paths. Students who seek certification as English teachers must declare and follow the Teacher Certification Option. Students who elect to focus their Advanced Study exclusively in writing may declare a Writing Option.

Teacher Certification (5-12) Option

The Educator Preparation programs at Plymouth State University are approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education. The University is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE).

Graduates who complete this Teacher Certification Option are eligible for 5-12 teacher certification in the state of New Hampshire. Because of New Hampshire's membership in the Interstate Certification Contract, Plymouth graduates are eligible to earn a certificate or license in another Contract state upon application to that state's department of education. For further information, please see the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation section. Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Teacher candidates can find the most current New Hampshire Department of Education standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm (<http://education.nh.gov/>).

All teacher candidates who interact with students in public school settings through course-related field experiences, including English Internship in Teaching, are subject to New Hampshire state legislation that requires a full disclosure criminal records check. This may include fingerprinting. The processing of the criminal records check is conducted at the site school before the clinical experience begins. The fee for this processing is the responsibility of the teacher candidate and is paid directly to the school district. Each new site will require a separate fingerprinting and background check. Inquiries should be directed to the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation.

In order for teacher candidates to participate in clinical experiences in diverse settings that are essential for their development as teachers and required for accreditation, teacher candidates must be willing and able to travel outside of the Plymouth area beyond walking distances. All Internship in Teaching candidates should plan for and be able to secure their own transportation by the junior year.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
EN 1600	Studies in English (QRCO,WRCO)	4
EN 2710	Creative Writing	4

EN 3515	Currents in Global Literature (GACO)	4
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Rethinking Literature

Complete three courses from the following, one of which must be a Technology in the Discipline Connection: 12

EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature (DICO,TECO)	
EN 2460	Rethinking Modern American Literature (DICO)	
EN 2490	Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945 (TECO)	
EN 3420	Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature (INCO,INCP)	

General Education (<https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/>)

EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4

CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
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PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
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SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
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SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
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Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
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GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language ²	6-8
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Option Requirements 47-60

English Major, No Option
Teacher Certification (5-12)
Writing

Total Credits 120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² The foreign language requirement for all BA degrees calls for 0-8 credits: one year of one language (6-8 credits); or one 3000/4000 level world language course (4 credits); or being a native speaker of a language other than English (zero credit). American Sign Language I

and II fulfill this requirement; however, American Sign Language does not satisfy the Global Awareness Connection.

English Major, Writing and Literature

Course	Title	Credits
EN 3695	Critical Theory	4
Advanced Study Courses		
Complete four to five (3000/4000 level) classes (minimum of 16 credits) from the following:		16
EN 3040	Practicum in Production	
EN 3050	Practicum in Publication	
EN 3105	Fiction Workshop	
EN 3125	Advanced Composition	
EN 3135	Non-Fiction Workshop	
EN 3145	Poetry Workshop	
EN 3305	The Craft of Screenwriting: Reading and Writing Screenplays	
EN 3325	Literature into Film	
EN 3595	The Filmmaker's Vision: An Introduction to Film Analysis	
EN 3685	Scriptwriting	
EN 3755	Topics in Literature and Film	
EN 3765	Topics in Writing	
EN 4035	Advanced Poetry Workshop	
EN 4155	Digitalit: Storytelling in the Digital Age (TECO)	
EN 4318	Teaching Writing: Grades 5–12	
EN 4559	Teaching Literature: Grades 5–12	
EN 4560	Teaching Digital Literacy, Grades 5–12	
EN 4805	Single Author Course	
CM 3095	Technical Communication (TECO,WRCO)	
CM 3675	Journalism in the Digital Age (TECO,WRCO)	
Electives		32-41
Total Credits		52-61

Teacher Certification (5-12) Option of BA English

Course	Title	Credits
EN 2900	Introduction to English Teaching	4
EN 4318	Teaching Writing: Grades 5–12	4
EN 4558	Teaching Reading: Grades 5–12	4
EN 4559	Teaching Literature: Grades 5–12	4
EN 4560	Teaching Digital Literacy, Grades 5–12	4
EN 4320	English Internship in Teaching Seminar	1
EN 4430	English Internship in Teaching 5-12 ¹	11
SE 3090	Introduction to Special Education: Middle and Secondary	3
ED 2800	Inclusive Education and Technology (TECO)	4
ED 2600	Learning and Development (WRCO)	4
ED 3000	Identity in a Diverse Society (DICO)	4
Total Credits		47

¹ English Internship in Teaching requires a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.70; a minimum grade of C in Currents in Global Literature (EN 3515), Teaching Writing: Grades 5–12 (EN 4318), Teaching Reading: Grades 5–12 (EN 4558), Teaching Digital Literacy, Grades 5–12 (EN 4560), Teaching Literature: Grades 5–12 (EN 4559); a minimum grade of C in three of Rethinking Early American Literature (EN 2440), Rethinking Modern American Literature (EN 2460), Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945 (EN 2490), Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature (EN 3420).

Recommended Course Sequence

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule.

To complete the bachelor's degree in 4 years, you must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14 credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester. Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major, option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).

English major without an Option

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
EN 1600	Studies in English (QRCO,WRCO)	4
Credits		15-16

Years One and Two

EN 2710	Creative Writing	4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language	6

Electives		15-16
Credits		41-50
Years Three and Four		
EN 3515	Currents in Global Literature (GACO)	4
EN 3695	Critical Theory	4
Complete three Rethinking Literature Courses, one of which must be TECO, from the following:		12
EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature (DICO,TECO)	
EN 2460	Rethinking Modern American Literature (DICO)	
EN 2490	Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945 (TECO)	
EN 3420	Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature (INCO,INCP)	
Complete four to five (3000/4000 level) Advanced Study Courses from the following:		16
INCO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCO)	Integration Connection	3-4
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		16-18
Credits		58-62
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

Elective Options

Teacher Certification (5-12) Option of BA English

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
General Education Requirements		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
English Major Requirements		
EN 1600	Studies in English (QRCO,WRCO)	4
Credits		15-16

Years One and Two

General Education Requirements		
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4

PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language	6
English Major Requirements		
EN 2710	Creative Writing	4
Teacher Certification Requirements		
EN 2900	Introduction to English Teaching ²	4
Praxis Tests must be passed by end of Year Two		

Credits		30-38
Year Two		
English Major Requirements		
Complete three Rethinking Literature Courses, one of which must be TECO:		
EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature (DICO,TECO)	4
EN 2460	Rethinking Modern American Literature (DICO)	4
EN 2490	Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945 (TECO)	4
Teacher Certification Requirements		
ED 2600	Learning and Development (WRCO)	4
Electives		3

Credits		19
Years Three and Four		
EN 3515	Currents in Global Literature (GACO)	4
Complete three Rethinking Literature Courses, one of which must be TECO:		
EN 3420	Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature (INCO,INCP)	4
General Education Requirements		
Integrated Capstone (INCP); EN 3420 satisfies requirement		
Teacher Certification Requirements		
ED 3000	Identity in a Diverse Society (DICO)	4
SE 3090 or ED 2800	Introduction to Special Education: Middle and Secondary or Inclusive Education and Technology (TECO)	3
Fall of year 3 (required course)		
EN 4558	Teaching Reading: Grades 5–12	4
Spring of year 3 (required course)		

EN 4318	Teaching Writing: Grades 5–12	4
Electives		8
Credits		31
Year Four		
Fall		
Teacher Certification Requirements		
EN 4560	Teaching Digital Literacy, Grades 5–12	4
EN 4559	Teaching Literature: Grades 5–12	4
Electives		4
Credits		12
Spring		
No other courses possible due to full-time internship.		
EN 4320	English Internship in Teaching Seminar	1
EN 4430	English Internship in Teaching 5-12	12
Credits		13
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² Required for the Option

Writing Option of BA English

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
EN 1600	Studies in English (QRCO,WRCO)	4
Credits		15-16
Years One and Two		
EN 2710	Creative Writing	4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8

GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language	6
Electives		15-16
Credits		41-50
Years Three and Four		
EN 3515	Currents in Global Literature (GACO)	4
EN 3695	Critical Theory	4
Complete three Rethinking Literature Courses, one of which must be TECO:		12
EN 2440	Rethinking Early American Literature (DICO,TECO)	
EN 2460	Rethinking Modern American Literature (DICO)	
EN 2490	Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1945 (TECO)	
EN 3420	Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Literature (INCO,INCP)	
Complete four to five Advanced Study in Writing Courses (3000/4000 level) from the following: ²		16
EN 3040	Practicum in Production	
EN 3050	Practicum in Publication	
EN 3105	Fiction Workshop	
EN 3125	Advanced Composition	
EN 3135	Non-Fiction Workshop	
EN 3145	Poetry Workshop	
EN 3305	The Craft of Screenwriting: Reading and Writing Screenplays	
EN 3685	Scriptwriting	
EN 3765	Topics in Writing	
EN 4035	Advanced Poetry Workshop	
EN 4950	English Internship	
CM 3095	Technical Communication (TECO,WRCO)	
CM 3675	Journalism in the Digital Age (TECO,WRCO)	
INCO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCO)	Integration Connection	3-4
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		16-18
Credits		58-62
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

² Required for the Option

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete degree programs in the Plymouth State University Department of English should be able to:

- Use cultural, historical, and aesthetic contexts to inform their understanding of all kinds of texts
- Display analytical skill in their written responses to texts
- Write fluently and understand writing as an artistic and/or intellectual process
- Understand the conventions of literary genre as creative writers and critics
- Capably use research to accomplish their reading, writing and thinking goals
- Understand the role of emerging digital technologies in writing, literature, and communication

English Education, K-12 – NH State Educator Certification

- Understand the cognitive processes and social factors that contribute to language development;
- Support adolescent readers' development of skills and knowledge related to word recognition, vocabulary, verbal reasoning, and reading comprehension;
- Support adolescent writers' development of skills and knowledge related to writing clear sentences, compelling narratives, creative poems, and coherent essays;
- Ask incisive questions that spark students' intellectual curiosity;
- Orchestrate lively, respectful class discussions that explore stories and poetry and relate literature to students' own lives;
- Communicate effectively with students, parents, and colleagues.

Career Pathways

What kind of a position could I get with a major in English?

- Advertising
- Advertising Traffic Manager
- Account Executive
- Acquisitions Editing
- Administrator
- Administrative Assistant
- Attorney
- Book Critic
- Business manager
- Circulation Assistant
- City Manager
- Communication Manager
- Congressional Aide
- Community Relations Specialist
- Contracts and Permission
- Curator
- Desktop Publisher
- Documents Analyst
- Education & Training
- Education Program Specialist
- Foreign Correspondent
- Fundraiser
- Greeting Card Writer
- Hearing Officer
- Hotel/Motel Manager

- Human Resource Specialist
- Insurance Agent
- Investment Counselor
- Literary Agent
- Lobbyist
- Loan Officer
- Marketing Trainee
- Marketing Writer
- Novelist
- Paralegal
- Personnel Manager
- Poet
- Press Representative
- Public Speaker
- Publicity Assistant
- Publishing Assistant
- Program Manager
- Product Manager
- Probation and Parole Officer
- Program Planner
- Public Administrator
- Publicity Assistant/Coordinator
- Public Relations Manager
- Radio & TV Newscaster
- Reading Consultant
- Research Publications Editing
- Sales Writer
- Social Worker
- Sports Writer
- Technical Consultant
- Training Specialist
- Translator
- University/College Relations

Where should I look for a job if I have an undergraduate degree in English?

- Advertising Agencies
- Bookstores
- Business & Industry
- Broadcast Media
- Colleges/Universities
- Commercial Banks and Credit Unions
- Communication Firms
- Education and Professional Books
- Film Companies
- Foreign Service
- Fundraising Firms
- Government Agencies
- Humanities & Arts Council
- Insurance Companies
- Law firms
- Magazines and Newspapers

- Non-Profit Organizations
- Personnel Departments
- Professional Journals
- Public/Private Schools
- Public Relations Firms
- Publishing Firms
- Radio-TV Industry
- Research/Development Firms
- Travel Agencies
- Trade Associations
- Trade, Professional or Consumer Publications

The English major required me to think deeply and to think for myself. The professors demanded that of us and that training has served me well in my graduate academic pursuits.

~Nathan Bieniek, alum

What are some examples of things that recent PSU English grads are doing out there in the world?

Recent grads from the last seven years are continuing their studies and working in related fields. Here is a random sampling of what specific English alums are up to:

- JD law degree (Rutgers);
- MA in literature (Fitchburg State);
- Copyeditor/proofreader at a NH press;
- MA in theology (Boston University);
- Founder/President of tutoring company;
- Founder/President of marketing and business solutions company;
- Multimedia Specialist;
- MFA in Popular Fiction (USM);
- Director of Sales at art/design company;
- MLS in Library Science/Media (multiple students);
- Sportswriter for NH Fisher Cats;
- Client Services and Social Media Specialist;
- High School English Teacher (multiple students);
- ESL teacher in Korea;
- English Teacher in Abu Dhabi;
- Graphic Designer;
- Production Assistant at local TV station;
- PR Editor at private school.

My first job right out of PSU was doing light assembly for telecommunications products. Word got out that I had a degree in English and they bumped me up from the back room to the Marketing department.

~Derek Heidemann, alum

Is it true that if I pursue my love of English that I won't get a job? or make a decent living?

Nope! One English professor debunks these myths: "Reports of the deadliness of English to a successful career are greatly exaggerated. According to one major study produced by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the median income for English majors with a bachelor's but no additional degree is \$48,000. This figure

is just slightly lower than that for bachelor's degree holders in biology (\$50,000), and slightly higher than for those in molecular biology or physiology (both \$45,000). It's the same for students who received their bachelor's in public policy or criminology (both \$48,000), slightly lower than for those who received their bachelor's in criminal justice and fire protection (\$50,000) and slightly higher than for those who received it in psychology (\$45,000)." And the unemployment rate for English majors is just the same as it is for grads with other BA degrees. Read more: <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2013/02/05/essay-critiques-garrison-keillor-his-jokes-about-english-majors#ixzz2KFNRAfux>

If I do an English major at PSU, will you help me find a job?

You bet! Come talk to any faculty member for help in the job search, and work with Jim Kuras from Career Services for even more support. Attend English Department workshops that will help you apply for your first job. Here are some of the handy materials from those sessions that you might like to look over right now:

- Job Searching 101 for English Majors
- Writing Your Resumé
- Writing Your Cover Letter

Still have questions about what YOU can do with a degree in English from Plymouth State University? Come talk to our English faculty anytime!

English Education, K-12 – NH State Educator Certification - English Educators