

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Liberal Arts Building 4210

Phone: 410-704-2871

Email: engl@towson.edu

Programs of the Department

The study of English offers students a wide-ranging exploration of creative, literary, technical, and rhetorical forms of expression. Creative writing courses include fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction workshops and advanced workshops in which students write and revise their own work while being immersed in innovative contemporary writing. Literature courses include topics-focused and period-focused classes from a diverse range of cultural traditions, as well as some literature translated into English. Courses also give students opportunities to write grants for local non-profits and work on writing projects that benefit community partners. Students in English can tailor the course of study to their interests by pursuing a track in Literature or Writing or a concentration in Secondary Education. Students can also pursue minors in English or Creative Writing. In addition to a deep commitment to the values of a humanities education, the English department prizes small class sizes, and English faculty value their teaching above all else and encourage learning through collaboration and practice. The English department also supports diverse and inclusive student learning.

Each English major is assigned a faculty adviser, who assists the student in creating a program of study best suited to the student's interests and goals. The flexibility of the study of English allows the student a wide choice of courses within the department and possibilities for coordinating a program with another academic department.

Students who major in one of the other programs of the University but feel a strong interest in language, literature, or writing are urged to explore the value of completing a double major with their adviser or with the chair of the Department of English.

The Department of English oversees the Master's in Professional Writing program, offering unique post-baccalaureate opportunities to pursue careers in creative writing, technical writing, editing, public relations, grant writing, and teaching writing at the community-college level. Prof. Sarah Gunning, 410-704-3139, coordinates the program.

Advanced Placement and Credit For Prior Learning

The department awards units through the Advanced Placement Program of the university. Also, a selected number of entering freshmen are placed in ENGL 190 rather than ENGL 102. The department offers units for most courses, other than upper-level writing courses, through the Credit for Prior Learning Program. Students applying for credit under this program complete an examination and two papers in the area.

English Honors and Activities

The English Department participates in the Honors Program in coordination with the Honors College. The department offers honors sections of introductory courses for students admitted to the Honors College, as well as ENGL 332, an honors section of the upper-level fiction workshop, ENGL 312.

Departmental honors are designated on a graduate's transcript and diploma when a student successfully completes ENGL 499. Students

pursuing departmental honors are not required to be members of the Honors College. Departmental honors are distinct from Latin honors (cum laude, etc.) and from enrollment in the Honors College.

English majors with qualifying GPAs (at least 3.5 in the major and 3.25 overall) can complete an honors thesis under the direction of an Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in the English Department. In exceptional cases, the Honors Thesis Coordinator and department chair may give permission for an English department Lecturer to direct an honors thesis. Typically, seniors complete an independent study (ENGL 490) before taking ENGL 499, the thesis course. ENGL 499 fulfills the capstone requirement, taking the place of a capstone seminar or internship. Theses may consist of creative or scholarly writing. Students who are interested in pursuing departmental honors should consult the Department Chair or the Honors Thesis Coordinator during their junior year.

Departmental Awards and Scholarships

The English department awards a number of scholarships and prizes with annually varying monetary value: the Charlotte Koomjohn Award; the W. Frank Guess Award; the Sander Distinguished Presidential Scholarship; the Margery Harriss Great Starts Award; the Three Arts Club of Homeland award for fiction and poetry; the Robert M. Ward Scholarship in Creative Writing; and the Hannah Nathan Rosen Writing Prize.

Students have opportunities to publish their work in TU's literary magazine *Grub Street* and in *Discourse: The English Academic Journal of TU*.

Admission

Admission Requirements for the Accelerated Bachelor's in English and Master's in Professional Writing Undergraduate Admission Requirements

For admission to this track on the undergraduate level, the student must apply to the director of the Professional Writing Program before the second term of the junior year and meet the following criteria:

- Completion of or current enrollment in 60 units (may include transfer credits).
- Declaration of an English major in the undergraduate Writing track.
- Completion of (or current enrollment in) at least 12 units of the English major (3 of these units should fulfill TU's Advanced Writing Seminar requirement with a class from the English department: ENGL 313 or ENGL 316).
- Achievement of an overall GPA of 3.30 or better and a GPA in English of 3.30 or better.
- Demonstration of a high degree of proficiency in writing, to be determined by the director of the Professional Writing Program from the student's PRWR master's program admission materials.

Majors

- Major in English
- Major in English - Secondary Education Concentration
- Accelerated B.S./M.S. in English and Professional Writing

Minors

- Minor in Creative Writing
- Minor in English

Faculty

Professors: Katherine Attié, Geoffrey Becker, Frances Botkin, Christopher Cain, Erin Fehskens (Chairperson), H. George Hahn, Leslie Harrison, Harvey Lillywhite, Jennifer Mott-Smith, Salvatore Pappalardo (Assistant Chair), Dana Phillips, Joel Slotkin, Zosha Stuckey, Jonathan Vincent

Associate Professors: Matt Dowell (Director of First-Year Writing), Sarah Gunning (Graduate Program Director), Jacob Hovind, Adam Jabbur, Donnie McMahan, Jeannie Vanasco

Assistant Professors: Jianfen Chen, Carrie Grant, Sherita Roundtree

Teaching Professor: Michelle Barnett, Sharon Becker, Joseph Capista III, Jack Carneal, Mildred Landrum-Hesser, Kevin Murphy, Reiner Prochaska, Andrew Reiner, Benjamin Warner

Associate Teaching Professor: Thomas Bechtold, Adeana Lopez

Assistant Teaching Professor: Alan Britt, Gregory Butler, Joe Davis, Steven Heaney, Catherine Hearn, Ariana Mashilker, Tim Nelson, Carol Phippen, Lauren Reding