

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts, English Writing Concentration



About This Major . . .

The English program offers a Bachelor of Arts in English with concentrations in Literature, Creative Writing, and Secondary Education. With a Literature concentration, you will gain breadth as you read widely in world, British, and American literatures, and you will gain depth as you engage contemporary literary theory and rhetoric. Opportunities abound as you hone your craft in poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction workshops. If you are interested in teaching, you will first gain an expertise in literature and language, then you'll focus on teaching as you design assignments, learn pedagogical theories, work closely with local middle and high school teachers, and complete your student teaching internship. By reading, interpreting, and evaluating complex literature, theories, and criticism, you will learn to think critically, having learned to weigh evidence, identify assumptions, evaluate persuasive appeals, and recognize faulty reasoning. Employers want smart, flexible, and creative employees, all hallmarks of a Colorado Mesa University graduate in English.

Four years of work culminates in a project that will make you proud. Literature and creative writing students complete a senior seminar that invites them to create a portfolio of work and craft a longer essay worthy of graduate school. Future teachers complete their internship in a local school. These final projects share a common invitation: demonstrate your expertise in a professional context.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

With an English degree in hand, you will be able to:

1. express and tailor your ideas, arguments, and views in a variety of ways to different audiences.
2. interpret stories, poems, plays, films, images, and more, and you will know how to use different kinds of evidence to persuade others.
3. lead discussions about a wide range of American and British literature.
4. use what you know about literature to write your own stories, poems, and plays.
5. research to find answers to questions and solutions to problems.
6. apply standard conventions of English grammar and punctuation and explain grammatical structures using relevant terminology.

Program Highlights:

Go Public

Contribute to *Pinyon*, *The Literary Review*, *Horizon Magazine*, or the *Criterion*. Put your stories on KMSA radio, CMU-TV, or on the web.

Follow Their Lead

Land a job in publishing, public relations, freelancing, grant writing, technical writing, advertising, art foundations, journalism, and more.

Get Smarter

Consider an MA, MFA, PhD, law school, library science, museum studies, public administration, and more.

Get Involved

Join the English Club, Sigma Tau Delta, Creative Writing Club, Honors Program, or edit one of our journals.

Get Experience

Apply your expertise in a real-world setting by interning with a local business or firm.

Get Some Attention

You'll enjoy small classes—always less than 30, probably less than 20.

Feel at Home

Enjoy studying in a new beautiful building that offers all the resources you need.



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Foundational Courses

These courses provide you with surveys of American and British literature and introduce vocabulary, reading methods, and historical background that prepare you for more intensive study.

- Introduction to Literary Studies
- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Survey of English Literature I
- Survey of English Literature II
- Survey of American Literature I
- Survey of American Literature II

English and Writing Core

All students need to take these advanced courses which focus on reading methods, fundamental knowledge about the history and current use of English, important writers, and a capstone course that allows you to demonstrate what you’ve learned in a final project.

- Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
- Roots of Modern Rhetoric
- Senior Seminar in Literature
- Senior Seminar in Writing
- Understanding and Using English Grammar

Electives

We want you to have breadth as well as depth, and these electives allow you to supplement or complement your choices in English. A strategic selection of electives can help you “cross-pollinate” what and how you think.

- Western World Literature I
- Western World Literature II
- Introduction to Literature
- Mythology
- Non-Western World Lit I
- Non-Western World Lit II
- Children’s Literature
- Literature for Young Adults
- Language and Literacy
- Roots of Modern Rhetoric
- Introduction to Film Studies
- American Folklore
- Major Authors
- Literary Editing and Publishing
- Genre Studies

Literary Backgrounds

These courses allow you to study a range of genres that serve your goals and interests while at the same time provide you with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of literature.

Early Literature

- Classical Greek and Latin
- Medieval
- English Renaissance
- Bible as Literature
- Shakespeare
- 18th-Century

Later Literature

- American Literature to 1830
- American Literature 1830-1870
- American Literature 1870-1900
- American Literature 1900-1945
- American Literature 1945-present
- Ethnic Experience in U.S.
- British Romanticism
- Victorian Literature
- 20th Century British
- Women and World Thought

Writing Concentration

These courses focus on a variety of genres and serve your interests and career.

- Creative Nonfiction
- Art of the Essay
- Crafting Fiction
- Fiction Workshop
- Crafting Poetry
- Poetry Workshop
- Literary Editing and Publishing
- Technical/Professional Writing
- Writing for Engineers
- Screen Writing

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/english/degrees.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Languages, Literature, and Mass Communication, 237 Escalante Hall, 970.248.1687.