

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts, English Secondary Teaching 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 will 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 and compile a teaching portfolio. 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. develop an expertise to teach K-12 students in ways that address individual learning styles.
7. design a safe and stimulating learning environment for elementary and secondary education students.
8. help students read, write about, and discuss literary texts in academic and real-world settings.
9. develop teaching strategies and design appropriate methods to assess students.
10. reflect on and develop strategies to improve personal performance and intellectual growth.

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 as a teacher, education administrator, counselor, home schooling supervisor, and more.

Explore Other Careers

Consider publishing, public relations, freelancing, grant writing, technical writing, advertising, art foundations, journalism, and more.

Get Smarter

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

Get Involved

Join the English Club, Sigma Tau Delta, Teacher Ed Exceptional Learner Club, Creative Writing Club, or Honors Program.

Get Experience

Build your teaching confidence with over 800 hours of classroom experience in the field.

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
- Survey of English Literature I
- Survey of English Literature II
- Survey of American Literature I
- Survey of American Literature II

English Core

You will take these advanced courses that focus on reading methods and research so that you can demonstrate what you’ve learned in one final impressive project.

- Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism
- Senior Seminar in Literature

Secondary Teaching Core

To prepare you to teach students about language and literature, you will take courses that address foundational texts and methods.

- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Shakespeare
- Literature for Children and Young Adults
- Understanding and Using English Grammar
- Composition Theory and Practice
- Methods of Teaching Drama and Speech

Concentration Requirements and Electives

These courses allow you to study literary periods and courses that serve your personal goals and interests while at the same time provide you with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of literature. These courses include a wide variety of American, British, and world literatures, as well as creative and professional writing.

Secondary Education Requirements

While we want you to develop an expertise in literature and writing, you will also take education courses that provide you with a foundation in education theory and practice.

- Foundations of Education
- Pedagogy and Assessment
- Teaching to Diversity
- Integrating Literacy Across the Curriculum
- Content Methodology Practicum
- Methods of Teaching Secondary English
- Teaching Internship and Colloquium
- PRAXIS II Exam

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.