INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

Repeatedly ranked the #1 English department in the nation by U.S. News and World Report, we introduce students to literature in all its variety through time and across cultures. An English degree trains you in methods and theories of literary and cultural analysis, shows you how to conduct research and build complex arguments, and continually improves your writing. Majors and Minors gain crucial skills for any future profession: to communicate with clarity and confidence, to understand how words and stories work not just in books but in professional lives and society, and to reflect deeply on their reading. In addition to our national fame, we are known for stellar teaching, with more winners of the Distinguished Teaching Award than other Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences departments.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Enroll in Berkeley Connect, a one-unit mentorship and discussion course.
• Apply to the honors seminar course (ENGLISH H195A/B) and conduct long-term literary research to develop your own honors thesis while working closely with faculty.
• Join an English department-sponsored student group.
• Consider adding a Creative Writing Minor to your education.

THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

A core of lower division classes helps students shape their literary interests. Three (ENGLISH 45A-B-C) offer wide-ranging knowledge of the history of British, American, and global writing. Together with a course on Shakespeare and an introductory seminar (ENGLISH 90), the sequence gives students tools of literary analysis for advanced study. Upper-level electives, including a seminar on method (ENGLISH 102), refine skills of writing and interpretation. In a capstone research seminar (ENGLISH 190 or H195AB), majors design their own program of guided research and carry it out in an extended writing project. Even in required classes, there is flexibility in the choice of topics.

The kinds of intimate attention to form and relation that we practice in reading literature is the prerequisite for an attentive, which is to say an ethical, presence in the world.

– Billy Kieschnick-Mulligan, English major

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.
**ENGLISH**
Bachelor of Arts

**FIRST YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
  - Meet with your major and college advisors to map out a plan of study.
  - Look through the English Department course offerings and take a class that excites you!
- **Connect and build community**
  - Connect with English peers, faculty, and graduate student mentors by enrolling in Berkeley Connect.
  - Attend English Department events such as poetry readings, lectures by visiting professors, performances, social events, career panels, and more.
  - Get to know English Department professors and graduate students in office hours.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Talk to professors and advisors about your aspirations and intellectual interests.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships to learn about student programs and resources.
  - Explore your interests in a student-run DeCal course.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Learn about service and leadership opportunities with the Public Service Center and LEAD Center.
  - Discover hundreds of organizations at the Calapalooza student activities fair.
  - Explore study abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

**SECOND YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Meet with the major advisor about prerequisite courses and declaring the major.
  - Explore study abroad opportunities with the major advisor.
  - Complete remaining core requirements (45A, 45B, 45C, 90, and Shakespeare).
- **Connect and build community**
  - Attend English Department events such as poetry readings, lectures by visiting professors, performances, social events, career panels, and more.
  - Get to know English Department professors and graduate students in office hours.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Be bold: take an English course on an unfamiliar period, author, or topic.
  - Explore new subjects with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
  - Apply for prizes.
  - Take a Sophomore Seminar.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Satisfy your American Cultures requirement with an ACES community-based project.
  - Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
  - Plan when and where you want to study abroad, and prepare your application.

**THIRD YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Use your five English Department electives to explore your special interests.
  - Apply to a Creative Writing workshop.
  - Talk to your major advisor about the optional Honors Program.
  - Review your degree progress with your major and college advisors.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Join a student-run publication such as the Berkeley Poetry Review, The Daily Cal, Cal Literature & Arts Magazine (CLAM), or Berkeley Fiction Review (the Berkeley Fiction Review offers a DeCal course each semester).
- **Discover your passions**
  - Undertake an independent study with an English Department professor.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply for the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
  - Participate in cutting-edge research projects through URBAP.
  - Look into minorning in Creative Writing.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend a reading through the Holloway Poetry Series to hear poetry performed by contemporary poets.
  - Apply to be a BUILD Literacy Mentor to tutor local Berkeley elementary school students.
  - Explore post grad service such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- **Explore your major**
  - Finish remaining major, college, and campus requirements; complete a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
  - Enhance your capstone research experience by taking classes that provide context for your research project in ENGLISH 190 or ENGLISH Hons/AB.
- **Connect and build community**
  - Reconnect with professors and graduate students who mattered most to you during your time at Berkeley.
- **Discover your passions**
  - Consider applying to the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prize for Undergraduate Research.
  - Teach your own DeCal course.
  - Submit a literary analysis essay to The Folio, the undergraduate academic journal, or apply to be on the editorial staff.
- **Engage locally and globally**
  - Attend a reading through the Holloway Poetry Series to hear poetry performed by contemporary poets.
  - Apply to be a BUILD Literacy Mentor to tutor local Berkeley elementary school students.
  - Explore post grad service such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**
- Jobs and Employers
  - Account Manager, Drogot
  - Attorney-Advisor, US DOT
  - Business Development Assoc., UN
  - Content Writer, Lucid Software
  - Copyeditor, Vogue
  - Detective, Vacaville Police Dept.
  - Global Head of Enterprise Tech, BoA
  - Healthcare Reporter, LA Times
  - Instr., San Joaquin Delta College
  - Literary Agrt. Asst., ICM Partners
  - Nurse, UCSF
  - Partner Marketing Mgr., Google
  - Professor, Yale Department of English
  - Prog. Coord., World Inst. on Disability
  - Psychologist, Oakes Child Ctr.
  - Reporter, The NY Times
  - Research Analyst, Capital Group
  - Senior Marketing Mgr., Amazon
  - Social Worker, Veterans H. Admin.
  - Software Engineer, Chgg
  - Sr. Fundraising Mgr., Wikipedia
  - Teacher, Tilden Preparatory School
  - Technical Writer, Workday

**Graduate Programs**
- Archaeology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Creative Writing
- Education
- English Literature
- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine
- Psychology

*Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.*

Updated: 05.13.24

All opportunities listed above are available to two-year students and four-year students.