



The Passion

Through the study of literature one analyzes the world, the human condition, and perhaps most profoundly, one's own experience. By examining works from all genres and developing excellent written communication skills, students learn to contemplate culture, to think independently, to analyze logically, and to appreciate the beauty in language and literature. In a world where technical abilities quickly become obsolete, the study of literature teaches the expressive and analytical skills necessary for professional success and sound philosophical judgments.

The Program

Gonzaga University's rigorous English curriculum stimulates personal and intellectual growth. Founded on solid introductory writing and literature courses and covering a variety of genres, the English major offers a choice of Tracks.

The Literature Track (36 credits) requires students to take classes in four broad periods of English and American literature:

- American Literature Pre-1900
- British Literature Pre-1660
- American Literature Post-1900
- British Literature Post-1660

Students may choose from numerous electives to complete their program. Examples include: *Studies in the Novel*, *Studies in Woman Writers*, *Creative Writing*, *Post Colonial Literature*, and *Modern Theories of Literature and Criticism*. In the senior year, Literature Track English majors take the B.A. Comprehensive Exam which consists of three parts: Short Answer, Essay, and Explication. Students will choose an area of focus for their exam (Race and Nation; Crime, Punishment, and Social Order; Narrative; or Gender and Sexuality). Each area has corresponding theory and list of works with which students are expected to have thorough and comprehensive familiarity. The exam tests students' interpretive and writing skills learned in their English course work.

The Writing Track (39 credits) requires students to sample classes from the literary periods above, but the rest of their curriculum consists of various writing courses of their choice. Examples include: *Poetry Writing*, *Fiction Writing*, *Research and Writing*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and *Literary Journalism*. In the senior year, Writing Track English majors complete a senior project approved by and in coordination with

the English faculty. Examples of projects are a book of short stories, a collection of essays, and a research-based thesis.

Students with diverse interests may double-major or fulfill minors in other fields. English majors often obtain teacher certification from the School of Education, complete a Pre-Law or Pre-Medicine track, or add an additional major such as history, journalism, or theatre arts. Students majoring in any field may minor in English (21 credits) to enhance their language skills.

Outside of the classroom, the department supports student contributions to *Reflection*, the campus literary magazine, and *The Bulletin*, GU's weekly newspaper. The English Department also hosts the Gonzaga University Visiting Writers Series which brings writers of international significance to campus; recent visitors include Robert Hass, Carolyn Forché, Bharati Mukherjee, Joy Harjo, Li Young Lee, and Sherman Alexie. The English Department sponsors several writing awards such as the Michael and Gail Gurian Writing Awards and the Franz and Ann Schneider Essay Contest, for which students are awarded cash prizes and gift certificates.

Gonzaga's English Department recommends that high school students planning to pursue an English major take regular and advanced high school courses with an emphasis on developing strong writing, reading, and analytical skills. The Department does not believe that taking the first-year college composition course in a high school setting is in the best interest of students.

The Potential

One third to one half of graduating seniors plan to do graduate work. The English Department has an outstanding reputation for its undergraduate preparation of Ph.D.'s in English, M.F.A.'s in creative

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writing, and related fields. Department graduates have entered prestigious graduate programs and now hold academic positions in various universities across the country.

Many English Majors also complete Elementary or Secondary Education certification programs and become teachers. Interested students may apply to work in the Gonzaga University Writing Center, which is directed by an English faculty member. Some institutional and federal work-study funding is available for tutors in the lab. In recent years, a grant has also been secured to hire junior and senior English majors as tutors. Additionally, students may volunteer or receive credit for working in the Writing Center.

Recent Gonzaga English graduates have attended the following graduate programs:

Law Schools

Georgetown University
Lewis and Clark College
Seattle University
Temple University
University of Hawaii
University of Miami
University of San Diego
University of Washington

Masters (Fine Arts)

Arizona State University
Eastern Washington University
Loyola Marymount University
Naropa Institute
University of Idaho
University of Montana
University of Nevada - Las Vegas

English Graduate Schools

Louisiana State University
Purdue University
University of Chicago
University of Denver
University of Glasgow
University of Massachusetts
University of North Carolina
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
Washington State University

Recent Gonzaga English graduates work in the following fields:

Advertising
Armed Forces
College Admissions
Copy Editing
Government
Higher Education
Insurance
Jesuit Volunteer Corps
Journalism
Marketing
Medicine
Public Relations
Publication Design
Teach for America
Teaching
Teaching ESL Abroad
Theatrical Design
Video Production

The People

Over the past twenty years, English faculty members have earned Fulbright Awards, grants from agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and several teaching and scholarship awards.

The faculty consistently publish poetry, fiction, and literary criticism; deliver papers at regional and national scholarly conferences; participate in professional organizations; and write for local publications. Focusing primarily on teaching, however, the faculty place a high priority on assisting students with classroom concerns and long-range career plans. All faculty members have posted office hours when students can set appointments or drop by with their questions or concerns.

A Sample of Published Works by Gonzaga English Professors:

Dan Butterworth. *The Radium Watch Dial Painters*. Lost Horse Press, 2008.

Beth Cooley. *Shelter*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2006.

Heather Easterling. *Parsing the City: Jonson, Middleton, Dekker, and the City Comedy's London as Language*. New York: Routledge, 2007.

Patsy Fowler. *Launching Fanny Hill: Essays on the Novel and Its Influences*. Ed. Patsy S. Fowler and Alan Jackson, NY: AMS Press, 2003.

Tod Marshall. *The Tangled Line*. Canarium Books, 2009.

Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

Daniel Butterworth, Ph.D., University of North Carolina; Contemporary Literature, Romantic Literature, Creative Writing. (butterworth@gu.gonzaga.edu)

Ann Ciasullo, Ph.D., University of Kentucky; 20th Century American Literature, Feminist Theory, Women Writers, Popular Culture and Cultural Studies, Literary Theory. (ciasullo@gonzaga.edu)

Elizabeth Cooley, Ph.D., University of North Carolina; 20th Century British and American Literature. (cooley@gu.gonzaga.edu)

Brian Cooney, Ph.D., University of South Carolina; British Romanticism. (cooney@gonzaga.edu)

Heather Easterling, Ph.D., University of Washington; Early Modern Drama; Representation of Early Modern Gender and Culture in Literature. (easterling@gonzaga.edu)

John Eliason, Ph.D., University of Nevada-Reno; Director of Composition and the Writing Center; Writing Program Administration, Writing Pedagogy, Writing Centers, Writing Across the Curriculum. (eliason@gonzaga.edu)

Patsy Fowler, Ph.D., Auburn University; Director of Women's & Gender Studies; Restoration & 18th Century British Literature, Women's Studies, and the Development of the Novel. (fowlerp2@gonzaga.edu)

Michael Herzog, Ph.D., University of Washington; Chief of Staff to the President (not teaching); Old English and Medieval, Comparative Literature, Literature and Film. (herzog@gu.gonzaga.edu)

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