



English

The Department of English is a community of active scholars and writers dedicated to forming a deeper sense of themselves and their world. We celebrate the beauty of words and the power of language as a path towards that goal, and offer cultural, historical, and theoretical approaches to literature and the creative process. In so doing, we affirm the importance of creating and carefully understanding all forms of discourse. We also value well-crafted arguments, sophisticated analyses, elegant writing, and thoughtful engagement with research. We help students hone their critical thinking and writing skills in ways both creative and practical.

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 two areas of emphasis: a major with a focus in literature and one with a Writing Concentration.

The 36-credit **B.A. in English** focuses on literature and requires students to take classes in four broad periods of British and American literature:

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

Students may choose from numerous electives to complete their degree. Examples include Studies in the Novel, Studies in Women Writers, Creative Writing, Post-Colonial Literature, and Modern Theories of Literature and Criticism. In their senior year, English majors take the Senior Seminar, a focused, in-depth study of a literary topic. Past topics have included Tudor-Stuart Drama; Byron and Shelley; Literature of the Great War; and American Visionary Literature. The seminar familiarizes students with the critical conversation surrounding its topic, prepares them to engage in this and similar conversations, and has them enter into this conversation by creating a senior project: a well-informed, well-argued, research-based, critical study.

The 39-credit **Writing Concentration** English major 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 their senior year, Writing Concentration 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, or a research-based thesis.

Students with other academic 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 Gonzaga 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 have included three former U.S. Poet Laureates: Natasha Trethewey, Robert Hass, and Robert Pinsky. Other distinguished writers have included Jimmy Santiago Baca, Denis Johnson, Carolyn Forché, Bharati Mukherjee, Joy Harjo, Li-Young Lee, Jess Walter, and Sherman Alexie.

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 the best preparation for college writing and encourages students to take this course at Gonzaga during their freshman year.

OUTCOMES

An English graduate from Gonzaga University has the skills and habits of mind to succeed in a wide variety of vocations. Any field that values critical analysis, the ability to research and think creatively, and a deep understanding of language needs people who do what we do. Recent Gonzaga English graduates have found employment in a variety of fields, which include:

- Advertising
- Armed Forces
- College Admissions
- Content Development for Technology
- Copy Editing
- Government
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Medicine
- Public Relations
- Publication Design
- Teach for America
- Teaching
- Teaching ESL Abroad
- Technical Writing
- Theatrical Design
- Video Production

The English Department has an outstanding reputation for its undergraduate preparation for graduate and professional study, including Ph.D. programs in English, M.F.A. programs in creative writing, and law school. Department graduates have entered prestigious graduate programs and now hold academic positions in various universities across the country.

Recent Gonzaga English graduates have also attended the following graduate programs:

Graduate Studies in English

- Boston College
- Purdue University
- University of Chicago
- University of Colorado
- University of Denver
- University of Glasgow
- University of North Carolina
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin
- Washington State University

Master of Fine Arts Programs

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

Law Schools

- Georgetown University
- Lewis and Clark College
- Seattle University
- Temple University
- University of Hawai'i
- University of Miami
- University of San Diego
- University of Washington



THE PEOPLE

Over the past 20 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.

Faculty members consistently publish poetry, fiction, and literary criticism; present scholarly papers at regional and national conferences; participate in professional organizations; and write for local publications. With their focus primarily on teaching, however, the English faculty at Gonzaga 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.

Sample of published works by Gonzaga English professors:

Tod Marshall, Bugle. Canarium Books, 2014. Washington State Book Award Winner.

Brian Cooney, My Idea of Fun. Floating Bridge Press, 2015.

Patsy Fowler (with Amanda Hiner), ed., New Approaches to Eliza Haywood, a special issue of the Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Fall 2014.

Ann Ciasullo, "This is what I've always wanted": Bromance and the Evolution of Male Intimacy in the Jump Street Films." In Interactions: Studies in Communication and Culture, 2014.

Chase Bollig, "Is College Worth It?": Arguing for Composition's Value with the Citizen-Worker." In College Composition and Communication, December 2015.

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