

# English

## MAJOR MAP

### How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

You will want to diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



### Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Academic Advising, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

# English



## ABOUT THE MAJOR

Skilled jobs in the 21st century will go to people who can communicate in a variety of situations with people from all walks of life and through media and technology. Our degree can get you started on a career path in education, government, publishing, business, law, healthcare, journalism, library science, social work, industry, or the public sector. If you wonder how, please come and talk to us. BA English graduates have gone on to pursue advanced degrees in literature, linguistics, TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages), writing, rhetoric, communication, law, library and information science, engineering, medicine, and business administration, to name but a few.

As an English major at ECU, you'll read some of the best works of literature ever

written and explore both the classics and the cutting-edge. You'll take four core classes, gaining a solid foundation of your reading, writing, and analytical skills, and eight electives in English, Film, and/or Linguistics. To help you choose your electives, you'll receive one-on-one advising from a faculty member who knows you and your interests well.

You'll have the flexibility to choose courses from various fields that make up English today: literature, creative writing, multicultural and transnational literatures, technical and professional communication, linguistics, TESOL, rhetoric and composition, folklore, and film studies. In these courses, you'll become a strong writer and critical thinker with the skills to succeed in many different career fields.

## DEGREE OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts: 120 credit hours including:

- 40 hours of general education courses,
- 4 semesters of a foreign language,
- 36 hours in the major, plus a minor or a second major,
- general electives.

You can choose any minor at ECU. The department offers minors in English (for non-majors), Creative Writing, Linguistics, and Film Studies. Examples of other popular minors include Religious Studies, Great Books, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, Communication, and Ethnic Studies. You can add a professional certificate in Business and Technical Communication or TESOL.



## ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to ECU through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at [www.ecu.edu/admissions](http://www.ecu.edu/admissions). To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

## COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The English curriculum provides you with a robust knowledge of the foundations of the discipline, as well as the nuances of specialized issues within the field. In addition to ECU's general education requirements, you will choose 12 s.h. of core courses covering literary history, Shakespeare, and language study. You will fill your remaining semester hours with your choice of elective courses. You can use some of these electives to build a professional certificate (Business and Technical Communication or TESOL) into your major. Here are just a few of the many electives you'll find in English: The Supernatural, Language in the USA, African-American Literature, Introduction to Editing and Publishing, English for Global Communication, Introduction to Fiction Writing, North Carolina Literature, Digital Writing, and Cinematic Identities.

## GO ENGLISH!

We take career planning very seriously. Among the experiences that prepare you to enter the 21st century workforce are [internships](#), [extracurricular activities](#), lecture series, [study abroad](#), and a [Professional Seminar](#) that helps you think about careers in this field and prepare for the job market or graduate school.

## WORKPLACE SUCCESS

### What employers want

Employers frequently cite good communication, writing, and research skills as top criteria when looking to hire new employees. As an English major, you will develop skills like

1. Creating documents for a variety of audiences and purposes
2. Digital design and editing
3. Planning, organizing, and prioritizing work
4. Mining for, processing, and analyzing data
5. Deploying job-related technical knowledge
6. Communicating and influencing others

Keep in mind that your goal at East Carolina is preparing yourself to be marketable in your chosen career field. Taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to you outside of the classroom can help you to grow as a student and emerging professional, while also giving you experience and skills that will be attractive to prospective employers.

## WHAT CAN I LEARN?

As an English major, you will undertake coursework to develop a theoretical and practical knowledge of the field of English, as well as build upon analytical and writing skills you will use in your future career including:

- How texts, words, and images shape lives, cultures, and societies;
- How literature and film help us to grapple with what it means to be human in a complex world;
- How people learn languages; how languages develop; how words and grammar work to create meaning; and how we can help people communicate better;
- How texts--from creative works to business and technical documents to digital and social media content--are created and published;
- How you can persuasively communicate within and outside organizations;
- How smart critical thinkers find, read, process, and analyze data;
- How to use technology proficiently.



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## FIRST YEAR >>>

## SECOND YEAR >>>

## THIRD YEAR >>>

## FOURTH YEAR >>>

## POST-GRAD OPTIONS

### THE COURSES YOU NEED

Complete the general education requirements and begin to work on your foreign language courses. Also take a 3 s.h. 2000-level English elective (ENGL/FILM/LING).

Continue taking general education courses, and try to complete your foreign language courses during the second year. Also take ENGL 3000 or 3600, ENGL 3010, 3020 or 4340, and a 3 s.h. ENGL/FILM/LING elective.

Concentrate on the core coursework in the major and minor, including 3 s.h. in ENGL/LING language study, ENGL 3070, 3080, 3090 or 4091, and 6 s.h. of electives in the major.

Complete core coursework in the major and minor, including ENGL 4999 and 12 s.h. of electives in ENGL/FILM/LING, with at least 6 s.h. at the 4000-level.

You have many post-graduation options after completing your degree in English at East Carolina University. Some of our recent graduates have gone on to work in:

- Grant Writing and Fundraising
- Library and Information Science
- Technical Writing in the Private Sector
- K-12 Teaching
- Editing and Publishing
- Law School
- Healthcare
- Journalism
- User Experience and Web Content Design
- Textbook Author
- Public Information Officer

### GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year, you should begin to identify specific internships, other ways to develop the kind of employment experience you want, and/or potential graduate degree programs.

Meet with [Career Services](#) often to work on your post-graduation plans. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. Use your resources available through [Career Services](#). With your advisor, discuss internship opportunities inside and outside the English Department.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Attend career fairs to explore your interests, network, and to identify opportunities.

Visit [Career Services](#) to make post-graduation plans that include employment or graduate school. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so that you can address those shortcomings before graduation. Use the [Occupation Outlook Handbook](#) to identify common skills in your career of interest.

## VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/>

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Keep up with the department social calendar to participate in events like Banned Books Week.

Join student organizations that fit your interests, which may include the [English Club](#), [ECU Poetry Forum](#), or the [English Honors Program](#). You can also consider the [Student Government Association](#) or the [Student Activities Board](#). For a full list of student organizations, visit [OrgSync](#).

Connect with one of the three student publications to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the [Orgsync](#) directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization like the [Modern Language Association](#), [TESOL Inc.](#), or the [Society for Technical Communication](#).

Submit a piece of writing to [The Lookout](#), [The Rebel](#), or another publication. Consider submitting a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your English courses at a state or regional conference.

### THINK GLOBALLY

Start taking your foreign language classes to bolster your cross-cultural communication skills. Consider joining student groups with an international or intercultural theme, including [Global Ambassadors](#), [WorldWise](#), or the [International Student Association](#).

Work on integrating internationally-oriented classes into your electives and optional major courses. Consider including a minor in foreign language, international studies, or linguistics. Enroll in a Global Understanding course to gain cultural understanding by working with students from other universities abroad, while at ECU.

Finalize your plans to spend a semester studying at an ECU partner institution abroad or select a summer faculty-led study abroad program such as the English department's London program. Apply for study abroad scholarships.

Work with the Office of Global Affairs and the [Career Services](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to enhance your job placement possibilities. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-themed courses.

### CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log-in to [Handshake](#) to update your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your career goals and develop your résumé. Attend a career fair and other employer-related career events to network with potential employers.

Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss post-graduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer related career events.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, interview prep and professional presence. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP