



THIS IS MEMPHIS

2024-25 **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**
UNDERGRADUATE VIEWBOOK





ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

CHOOSE ENGLISH AND WRITE YOUR FUTURE!

As an English major, you can build your professional portfolio, participate in the Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's Program and study abroad with our amazing faculty. You'll have access to internships with local businesses, department-sponsored events with world-renowned authors and much more. With online degree programs and a variety of class offerings, the English major is flexible. English also makes a great second major or minor!

The English major allows you to choose one of the following concentrations:

- African American Literature (also available online)
- Applied Linguistics
- Creative Writing
- Literature
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Professional Writing (also available online)

“The English Department is a hidden jewel at the UofM.

In a variety of courses, I have learned never to underestimate the power of advanced literacy and artistic creation in this dynamic world. Literature is not only a form of entertainment, but a path to creating something beyond ordinary existence.”

— Noor Alshoumali, BA '19



AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

The African American Literature program encourages students to explore the literary and oral traditions that emerged from people of African descent in the United States since their arrival in 1619. The works students encounter examine writers as they attempt to define the role of the artist, critique society and translate their unique cultural expressions and experiences into literary forms. Students will explore the presence of African Americans and their stories of slavery and segregation in a country that celebrates freedom and equality.

“Being an English major has taught me how to think critically, express clear thoughts, appreciate literature and to value perspectives other than my own. After I graduate, I plan to teach high school English.”

— Maria S., BA '19

A few of the courses in this concentration include:

ENGL 4374 The Post-Soul Moment and Contemporary African American Literature

ENGL 3325 African American Literature: Slavery and its Aftermath

ENGL 4372 Black Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

Undergraduate African American Literature students in the Department of English have gone on to graduate literature programs, our African American Literature Certificate Program and into careers in education, law and business.

“When I took my first Introduction to Linguistics class my sophomore year, I was immediately hooked. Understanding how language works has made me feel more connected to the people around me, because if we can understand our mutual language, we can see that we have more similarities than differences.”

— Lauren James, BA '19

APPLIED LINGUISTICS

How do we learn language? Language is an ever-evolving system of rules that you follow without even being consciously aware of them. In linguistics, we study this system to understand how humans articulate sounds, produce words and phrases and understand the language they hear.

ENGL 3521 The American Language: Discover how history and society shape the way that Americans speak.

ENGL 4501 History of the English Language: Find out how the English language developed and how it continues to evolve.

ENGL 4522 Gender and Language: Learn how gender identities shape and are shaped by language use.

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of our program have gone on to graduate study in linguistics, education and speech therapy, and to work as researchers, teachers and editors.





CREATIVE WRITING

Develop your creativity by writing your own fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Our program provides strong fundamentals and encourages innovation. The emphasis is on reading great books, writing your own stories, essays and poems and participating in discussions with award-winning faculty. *The Pinch Presents* brings top contemporary writers to campus, and students have the chance to edit *The Pinch*, a national literary journal.

“The Poetry Workshop increased my writing flexibility immensely. Not only did the class challenge me to use new poetic forms, but it also helped me garner an appreciation

of other writers’ usage of those same structures. It was extremely helpful for my growth to emulate the writing styles of poets like Ross Gay and Tiana Clark. The professor always offered helpful feedback, which I could also use to my benefit.”

— Sarah Lim, BA ’20

ENGL 3607 Fiction Writing: If you can imagine it, you can tell it. Write your own story!

ENGL 4600 Creative Nonfiction Workshop: Shape your experiences into one-of-a-kind personal essays.

ENGL 4601 Poetry Workshop: Poetry is awake and alive in Memphis. Find your voice and let it sing!

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

Teaching, editing and grant-writing are popular career choices for our alumni. More and more undergraduate students are being accepted into Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs to further develop their work and to seek publication.



“I loved being a student in the Literature Concentration of the Department of English at the UofM. My professors came from a wide variety of backgrounds and I had the opportunity to explore my interests and read texts ranging from the medieval British Isles to the contemporary American South. The Literature Concentration helped me find my own voice and writing style, as well as the ability to think and write critically about the present moment.”
— Reid Russom, BA '19

LITERATURE

The undergraduate Literature program introduces students to “the best that has been thought and said.” By engaging in analysis of classic and contemporary literature, students learn highly-applicable skills in critical reading, thinking and writing. At the same time, students are encouraged to understand literature as a valuable tool to navigate complex social, political and cultural issues of the past and present.

ENGL 3330 Hardboiled Crime Fiction and Modernism

ENGL 3404 Studies in Popular Texts: The Novel in Letters

ENGL 3405 Multicultural Children’s Literature

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

Our graduates have gone on to work in education, law, university administration, the non-profit sector, journalism, social media, publishing and business management.

TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

How far can your degree take you? Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) concentration allows students to gain an indepth understanding of ESL methods for language, learning and assessment. Our TESOL graduates go all around the world! The TESOL with licensure track prepares students for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade licensure in the State of Tennessee.

ENGL 4533 ESL in Multicultural Settings: Learn how to recognize, appreciate and navigate cultural differences.

ENGL 3511 Intro to Linguistics: Language is part of what makes us human; find out how language influences culture and society.

ENGL 4530 Practicum in ESL: Gain hands-on experience and insight into how learners from around the world learn English right here in Memphis!

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

ESL graduates are currently teaching English in the Mid-South, Spain, Albania, the Czech Republic, Japan, Korea and China. Students in the ESL licensure track graduate eligible for a Tennessee license to teach ESL from PreK to 12th grade.

“Through my experience in the Department of English, I can confirm that all of the students focusing on teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) for their career will be equipped to do so in the coming years. Through practicums that challenge students and by helping students make lesson plans for the ESL students, the Department of English prepares us for the hard times that we will face in the classroom.”

— Hannah Green, BA '23





PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Ever wanted to learn how to create a website, design a technical document or enhance your editing and proofreading skills? The Professional Writing concentration has you covered with a variety of composition and design courses preparing students for careers in publishing, journalism and marketing.

ENGL 4618 Document Design: Use rhetoric, art, psychology and computer science to create an awesome and effective document.

ENGL 3602 Professional Editing: Editing plays an essential role in a variety of writing situations in professional and personal life.

ENGL 4619 Web Design and Online Writing: Who is your audience? Which visual design is most compelling? Create a seamless user-design experience on the web.

POST-BA OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the Professional Writing concentration are prepared for careers in technical writing, editing, publishing and communications. Many of our graduates have continued their studies in a variety of graduate programs such as Journalism, Marketing and Composition Studies.

“The professional writing track was great because it not only prepares you for the basics of technical and professional writing fields, but it also provides you with skills that make you generally more marketable. The web design and online writing course, for example, is a great introduction to online marketing. Last summer, I landed an editorial internship with Pearson, and the courses I’d taken so far had more than prepared me for the work. “

— Rachel Guffin, BA '19



SIGMA TAU DELTA

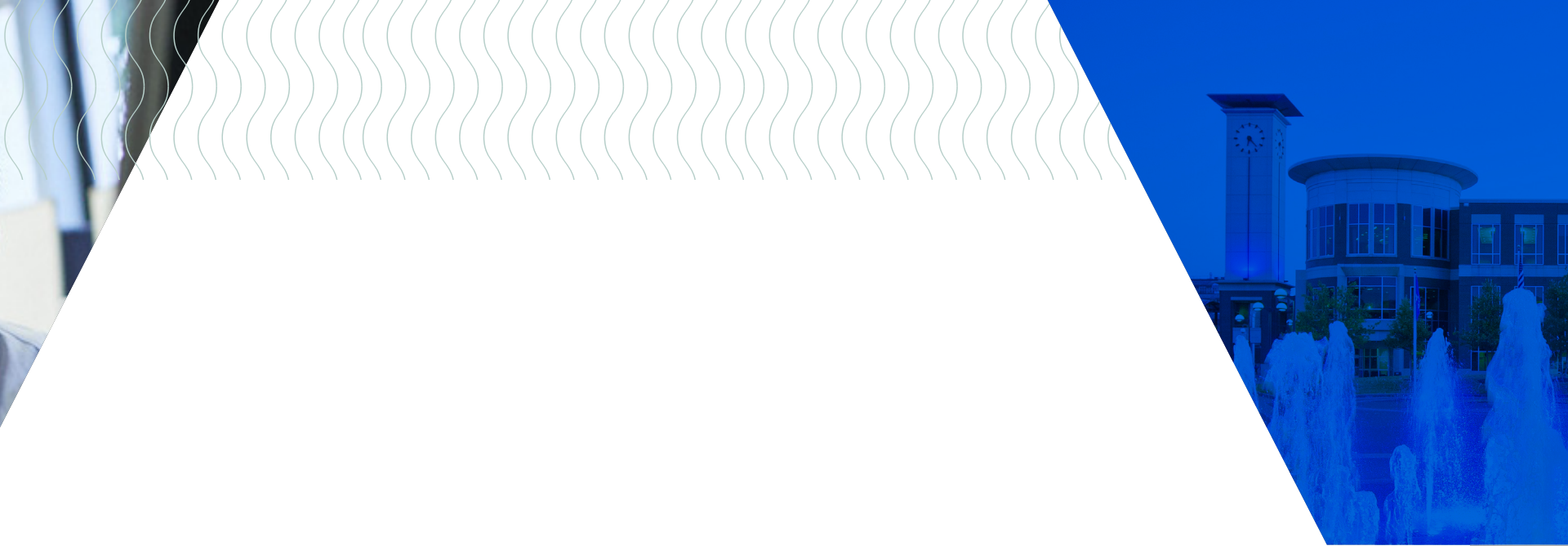
“Promotion of Quality, Recognition of Excellence”

Sigma Tau Delta is an international honor society for English majors that provides students opportunities to submit papers for publication, attend Sigma Tau Delta’s annual spring convention and apply for a variety of Sigma Tau Delta scholarships and internships.

The University of Memphis Department of English pays the one-time induction fee for a lifetime membership for its English Honors students.

For more information about joining Sigma Tau Delta, contact our English Honors director at englishhonors@memphis.edu.





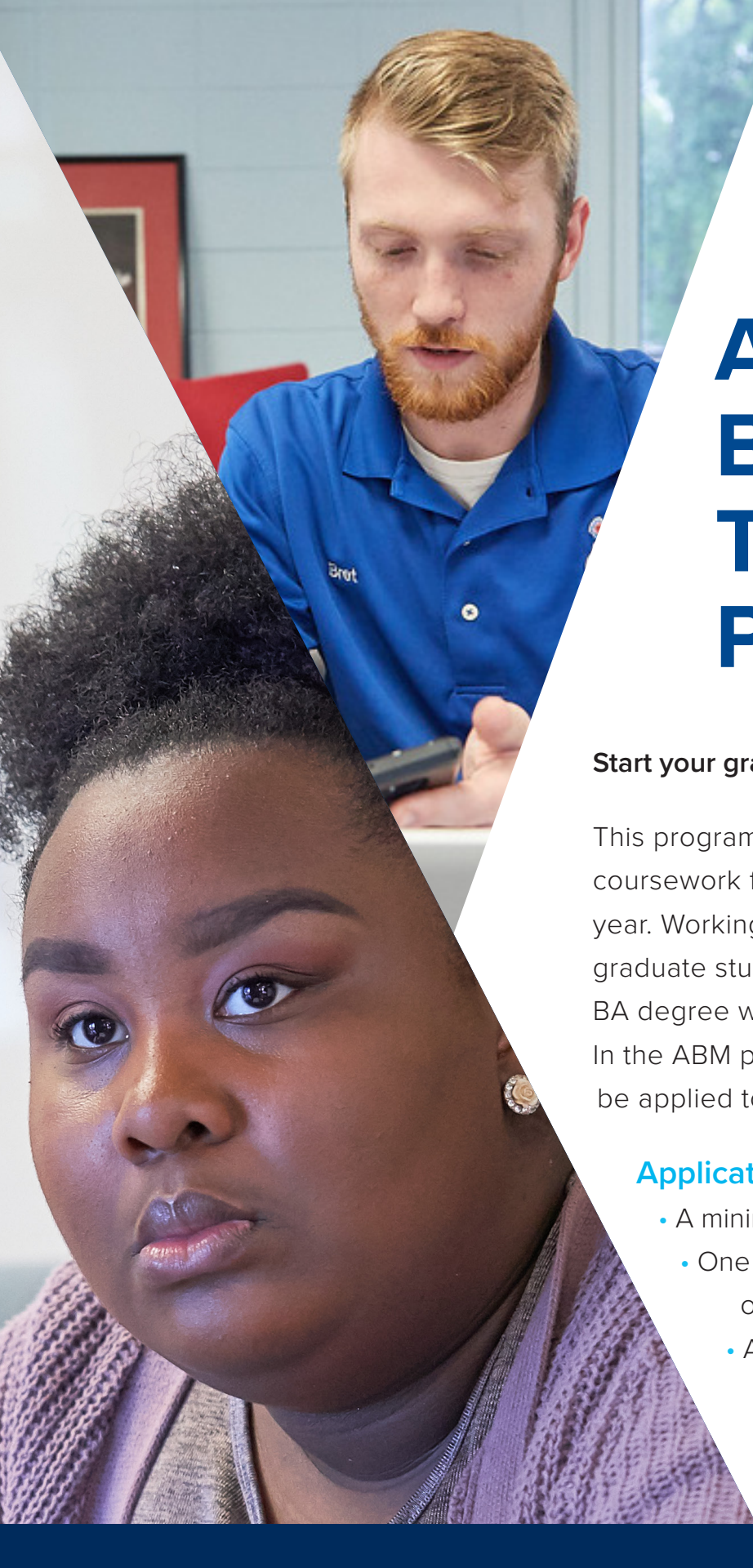
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HONORS

Undergraduate English majors with a 3.25 or higher GPA qualify to apply for the English Honors program. Students who complete the English Honors program are recognized by having their degree presented as “With Honors in English”.

Benefits of the English Honors program include:

- Small classes with highly motivated students
- Preparation for advanced study
- Individualized attention from professors
- Paid Sigma Tau Delta induction fees

For additional information, contact our English Honors director at **englishhonors@memphis.edu**.



ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S TO MASTER'S PROGRAM (ABM)

Start your graduate coursework while still an undergraduate!

This program allows outstanding undergraduates to begin the coursework for the Master of Arts in English during their senior year. Working with the undergraduate advisor and the director of graduate studies, undergraduates in this program will complete their BA degree while they also begin the coursework toward their MA. In the ABM program, up to 12 hours of graduate coursework may be applied to both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Application Requirements:

- A minimum 3.25 overall grade point average
- One reference letter from a Department of English faculty member
- An interview with the director of graduate studies in English

STUDY ABROAD

LOVE HARRY POTTER?

Interested in travelling while earning college credit?

Earn three upper-division English credits with ENGL 3604: Rediscovering Harry Potter: Sources, Landscapes and Legacies. This course is offered in alternating spring semesters and culminates in an international experience in May — a 10-day study trip to London and Edinburgh! Students study the Harry Potter series and explore landmarks such as King's Cross Station, Alnwick Castle, Edinburgh Castle, the Scottish Highlands and the Ministry of Magic. Join us for the next study abroad trip!

INTERESTED IN TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE?

Earn six upper-division English credits and a Teaching English as a Foreign Language certificate while studying in the city of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. During this summer study abroad experience, students spend three weeks learning and practicing different skills needed to begin teaching English as a Foreign Language abroad. Upon completion of all course requirements, students earn a TEFL certificate from the University of West Bohemia. This introductory credential allows students to teach English in non-English speaking countries.



READY TO DECLARE ENGLISH AS YOUR MAJOR?

If you're ready to become an English major, simply schedule an appointment with our undergraduate advisor.

During this appointment, we will review a few key things:

- Major requirements
- Concentration options
- Two-year course plan
- Career goals

English Advising Office

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