



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN • DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
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<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english>

CONCENTRATION IN ENGLISH: THE GENERAL PROGRAM

Why concentrate in English?

English as a field of study focuses especially on language as a medium of communication and on the analysis and enjoyment of works of imaginative literature. The study of English is at the heart of a humane education; as such its value is intrinsic to the molding of the self as a person and as part of society. English concentrators study the structure and content of works of literature, whether in the form of poetry, prose, or drama; explore theories of language and literature; and develop the ability to mold and interpret language in speech and writing. In addition, students learn strategies for producing, understanding, evaluating, and enjoying language in all its socially significant forms. Graduates with a B.A. in English have pursued careers in business, academia, and public service. While an English degree prepares students directly for a variety of careers involving the abilities to teach, write, speak, and analyze, the degree also provides excellent preparation for advanced graduate study or for professional study in law, medicine, and other fields.

Program Requirements

Prerequisites to concentration: Students who wish to concentrate in English must elect as a prerequisite English 298 (Introduction to Literary Studies).

Concentration requirements: Students in the General Program must successfully complete **30 credits** in English courses numbered 300 or above. These courses must include at a minimum:

- (3) courses on literature written primarily before 1830, at least one of which must be on literature written primarily before 1600.
- (1) course in American Literature
- (1) course designated “New Traditions”, focusing on the cultural traditions of women, minority groups, and people of color.
- (1) course of Poetry

A complete listing of courses fulfilling concentration requirements is available in the Undergraduate Office and on our website. In fulfilling this general pattern, students are urged to elect a course in Shakespeare, such as English 367, which fulfills one of the pre-1830 requirements. Concentrators should note that no more than one course in expository or creative writing may be counted toward the minimum **30 credits** at the upper level required for the concentration, although students may elect any number of such courses, subject to availability of spaces and to College limits on total elections of courses in any one department. Also, no more than six upper-level credits of Independent Study may count (as upper level elective credit) towards the concentration.

Designing a program of study

Students considering a concentration in English should consult with an English concentration advisor. Appointments can be scheduled on our website: www.lsa.umich.edu/english If possible, students planning to concentrate in English should elect English 298 during the sophomore year. Also during the sophomore year, students should obtain a "Declaration of Academic Program" form from the Academic Advising office, and should meet with a concentration advisor in order to complete this form and discuss their academic program.

While working to fulfill the concentration requirements, concentrators may elect classes that will provide a course of study they find most helpful and satisfying. Some organize their study in terms of the "periods" of literary/cultural history, others by reference to major thematic concerns. Some choose to place emphasis on certain literary forms, such as the novel, drama, or lyric poetry; or may make a special study of film. Students may concentrate on their own imaginative writing, whether drama, prose fiction, or verse. For assistance in designing specific paths of study, students should contact a concentration advisor. Students are also encouraged to consult with professors whose interests match their own for guidance on designing an academic program. A guide to faculty specialties is available in the Undergraduate office and on our website. The department has identified areas of specialization within the major. You can find a listing on the department website along with a "courses fulfilling program requirements" list.

Concentrators preparing to graduate should fill out a diploma application on Wolverine Access and an LSA Senior Concentration Release Form can be completed electronically with your Concentration Advisor or General Advisor.

For more information

Please refer to the Department of English website at: www.lsa.umich.edu/english.