

## Introduction to the Major

**Learn universal skills that can transfer to almost any profession. Develop sensitivity to cultural values and the ability to analyze effectively and persuasively.**

The English Department is a close-knit community of students and faculty who are passionate about the written word. By studying literature at Clark, you will gain knowledge of important authors and their work. You will also develop a sense of literary history, sensitivity to cultural values, and proficiency in diverse critical methods. The tools and experience you gain as an English major will prepare you for a wide variety of career paths.

### Highlights

The English Major is structured to balance literary and historical breadth with chances to pursue your special interests. Introductory courses ask you to think historically about the evolution of literary form, while seminars allow you to dig deeply into a literary moment or theoretical approach. Through our deep connection to the Creative Writing program, explore your own writing in fiction and non-fiction.



**"Reading and studying literature are acts of generosity, because when we read, we inhabit the lives of others - whether we identify with them or not"**

- Betsy Huang, Professor of English



### What can I do with my major?

#### JOBS & EMPLOYERS

English majors are excellent communicators and highly adaptable, creative problem-solvers who apply their critical thinking skills to productive effect in a variety of professions.

English graduates work in public relations and marketing, education, book publishing, print and digital media, business, government, law, library science, and more.

#### GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Clark English alumni pursue graduate study at Rutgers, Tufts, American University, Northwestern, Case Western Reserve, Simmons, the University of London, and more.

### Foundational Courses

The program is designed to develop a sense of literature, literary history, and sensitivity to cultural values.

- **Gateway course:**  
Text, the World, and the Critic
- **Historical Sequences:**  
Pre- and Post-1850
- **Genre courses** (two courses)
- **Period requirements**  
(four courses)
- **Theory** (one course)
- **Capstone requirement**  
(one course)

# YOUR CLARK EXPERIENCE



**Discover and Demonstrate your Purpose**



**Cultivate Your Communities**



**Engage Locally & Globally**



**Develop your Professional Identity**

## Year 1



### **Explore the English Department**

Take a First-Year Intensive (FYI) or 100-level course in English or Creative Writing. Browse the course catalog to learn more about course offerings.



### **Learn about campus resources**

Make an appointment with the Writing Center. Visit the English Department's Anderson House to study and chat in comfort. Go to the Clark library and check out some books. Visit the Career Lab in ASEC.



### **Get Connected**

Explore your identity and interests through co-curricular groups as a foundation to the work you will do as a major.

Attend English Department social, award, and alumni events. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Sign on to Handshake to learn about events and opportunities.

## Year 2



### **Dig into your major and define your interests**

Identify faculty members who share your interests and consider asking one to become your adviser. English Department faculty have research and teaching interests in sexuality studies, gender studies, Critical Race Studies, Ethnic Studies, environmental humanities, and more.



### **Stay engaged**

Engage in department events like Chowder Fest, Spring Fling, and Wassail. Take part in the department's many writing contests. Explore Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.



### **Challenge yourself**

Take a PoP course or experiential course in English to examine archival material in the American Antiquarian Society or collaborate with theatre productions at the Hanover Theatre.

## Year 3



### **Become a researcher**

Delve deeper into English seminars to engage with literary history and theory. Extend your perspective by studying abroad. Consider writing an honors thesis, a year-long senior research project with a faculty member.



### **Prepare for your career**

Use Handshake to search for internships and meet with a career adviser for additional resources. Apply for an internship through the English department with The Worcester Review, the Worcester County Poetry Association, and Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester.



### **What's next?**

Consider applying to a 4+1 Accelerated Master's Program to obtain a B.A. and master's in five years. Research careers and organizations that interest you. Have your resume and cover letter reviewed at the Career Lab. Connect with alumni.

## Year 4



### **Pull it together with your capstone**

Take the senior capstone course, which allows you to review the important skills you have acquired as an English major and to apply them in a longer, individualized research project. Review your coursework to make sure you will complete all degree requirements.



### **Build on what you have learned.**

Present your research at ClarkFEST. Attend or present at an academic conference. Volunteer for the department as a Peer Mentor or on the DEI Committee.



### **Get ready to launch**

Update your professional documents and profiles. Learn how to demonstrate qualities such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and initiative. Continue building needed skills through jobs, internships, clubs, a capstone, etc.