Bachelor of Arts in English

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of English		
Degree abbreviation	B.A.	**CIP code**	23.0101
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/english/english-major		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Department of English promotes scholarly and creative discovery within Florida Atlantic University's diverse community. English study trains students in textual analysis, communication and critical thinking. The major prepares students for any career that calls for imaginative thinking, analysis and strong communication.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The major supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and opening paths to economic mobility. Students build the writing, analysis and communication skills employers value, helping them be career-ready in many fields.

About the program

English majors read and interpret literature from many periods, places and cultures, and they study literary theory, writing and rhetoric. Students can add a concentration in professional and creative writing. The major is a great fit for readers and writers who want to think deeply and write with power.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☐ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☒ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to explain the literary knowledge, such as context, genre and form, needed to discuss a complex literary work.
Graduates will be able to apply critical methods to interpret a complex literary work.

How students show it

Formal essays written in a sample of upper-division English courses.

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☐ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to write clear, well-organized, thesis-driven essays that respond fully to a specific prompt.

How students show it

Formal essays written in a sample of upper-division English courses.

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☒ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to analyze a complex literary work and develop an original, in-depth critical argument about it.

How students show it

Formal essays written in a sample of upper-division English courses.

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Each year, faculty review essays from a sample of upper-division English courses. They score each essay as a whole with a shared guide that faculty developed and share with students. The guide looks at how well students address the prompt, understand the material, organize ideas, support arguments and control language. Students who need more support are referred to the university's writing center.

Assessment methods may change over time.