

English



Majoring in English

This is an exciting time to major in English at MU! With more than 35 full-time faculty members, classes are offered in a remarkably broad range of areas. You can study everything from [creative writing](#) to [contemporary literature](#) to [film and digital media](#) to [linguistics](#). You can also pursue internships in publishing, study abroad in Ireland or Jamaica, engage in one-on-one research projects with a professor, and work on the student-run literary journal, *EPIC*. English majors have two required courses, one at the beginning and the other at the end of their coursework—in between those core courses, they get to make their own way through this dynamic major, developing and deepening their passions and interests.

Famous Alumni of MU English

James Lee Burke, mystery writer
Jon Hamm, actor
William Least Heat-Moon, *New York Times* bestselling author
Tom McAfee, poet
Margaret “Petch” Peden, translator

Careers for English Majors

As an English major, you will have a variety of careers open to you upon graduation. In fact, it is a major that leads into an incredibly diverse array of job opportunities. While some English majors go on to be writers, teachers, and editors, many also go to law school, work in advertising, enter the tech world, work for non-profit organizations, or explore opportunities abroad.

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Photo by Shane Epping

The single-most important credential for any job these days is excellent communication skills, and English majors

have this in spades. The English department supports you by offering many opportunities for you to get experience in your desired fields before graduation and to network with successful alumni.

Creative Writing

Almost half of all English majors do some of their coursework in creative writing workshops. You may choose from introductory, intermediate, and advanced workshops in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry writing. The workshop is a small class (with a maximum of 15 students) in which you read and critique each other's work while also learning about the conventions and possibilities of the various genres.

Internships

English majors can participate in internships on and off campus, locally and nationwide. Each semester, the department offers [internships](#) with [The Missouri Review](#), a major national literary journal; [Persea Books](#), a New York City-based publishing house with an emphasis on poetry; and MU's Ellis Library. Recently, students have also started interning with [Wigleaf](#), an award-winning online literary journal of flash fiction, as well as the [Unbound Book Festival](#), which brings world-class writers to Columbia.

You may work through MU's [CLIP program](#) to arrange internships at the state capitol in Jefferson City.

Additionally, English students have been successful at finding their own internships all across the country for which they earn MU English credit. Those have included positions with the *Great Day St. Louis* television program and the National World War I Museum in Kansas City. Farther afield, students have traveled to New York City and elsewhere to gain valuable experience at Harper Collins Publishers, MTV/Viacom, Oxygen/NBC Universal, Universal Music Group, *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*.

Community

One of the great things about being an English major is the chance to be a part of an incredible community of fellow readers, writers, and thinkers. There are lots of opportunities for you to get to know other English majors, including our monthly Coffee with Majors series, in which individual faculty members gather with majors to talk about their current research and teaching interests. We also have a student-run organization called [EMU](#), which organizes poetry readings, sponsors pizza gatherings, and edits the literary journal, *EPIC*.

For More Info



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Complete undergraduate course listing:
catalog.missouri.edu/undergraduategraduate/collegeofartsandscience/english/#courseinventory

MU Admissions: admissions.missouri.edu



[University of Missouri English Department](#)