### English Major Blueprint

The English Major requires students to choose from among concentrations or tracks for their BA English degree: English Language Arts, Literature, Linguistics, Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy, or Creative Writing.

- The English Core of common courses shared by all the concentrations for the English Major requires 27 hours (9 courses).
- This is the blueprint with advice for students who are seeking a BA in English and who are not planning to do the Teacher Certification route as part of their university degree.
- In their General Education core, English majors are recommended to take ENGL courses to fulfill the "Language, Philosophy, and Culture" area and the "Social and Behavioral Sciences" area.

#### Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGL 23XX</th>
<th>Language, Philosophy and Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3300</td>
<td>English Grammar (core)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3362</td>
<td>Writing, Rhetoric, and Literature (Core)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 3371</td>
<td>Creative Writing I (Core)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Concentrations

- **English Core: a - Literature (i) Artistic Movement**
- **English Core: b - Literature (ii) Genre/Theme**
- **English Core: c - Linguistics (i) Linguistics**
- **English Core: d - Linguistics (ii) Rhetorical Writing**

**ENGL 3351 Creative Writing I**

#### Electives

- Choose 1 Communication (Core)
- Choose 1 American History (Core)
- Choose 1 Creative Arts (Core)
- Choose 1 Mathematics (Core)

#### Minor or Additional English Concentration

- 13XX-43XX Free Elective
- ENGL 33XX-43XX Advanced Minor or English Capstone

#### Additional English Concentration

- 33XX-43XX Concentration
- 33XX-43XX Free Elective
- 13XX-43XX Free Elective

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**Note:**

- Students are encouraged to consult with an academic advisor to plan their course of study.
- Requirements are subject to change.
- For more information, please contact the Department of Writing and Language Studies.

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**Degree Info**

The English degrees at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley cultivate students scholarly and creative achievement through graduate and undergraduate courses in literature, language, rhetoric and composition, creative writing, and secondary English language arts. We promote student literacy—specifically the abilities to read, write, and think critically—as well as an appreciation for the English language. We encourage faculty to pursue excellence in teaching, foster collegiality, contribute scholarly research, and engage in service to the university and Rio Grande Valley community. The English degrees, as a collaboration among the Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies, the Department of Writing and Language Studies, and the Creative Writing Program in the College of Fine Arts, support culturally responsive pedagogy and community engagement. A student with an English major possesses skills in critical thinking, writing, and reading. English majors can enter professions such as teaching, writing, editing, media production, the law, public service, and advocacy, and they are prepared for continued graduate or professional study.
FUTURE YEARS

First Year

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your first-year writing courses (1301 and 1305) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years. Make sure all credits count toward your degree plan.
- If you entered with credits, start taking courses for your major now.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better throughout your studies.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session. Make sure you take notes toward your degree plan.
- Visit faculty members during office hours to ask questions about class, your concentration for your major, and career options.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group. Get advising done in advance.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.
- Follow campus media, and learn about ways you could use your skills as an English major to communicate with the public.
- Look for a service-learning course. For guidance, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Form study groups with fellow students in your classes.
- Read widely in order to learn about the world and about different types of writing.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu. Update it each semester.
- Attend inclusive and diversity events on campus such as Linguistics Seminars, to be part of UTRGV intellectual life.
- Join a student organization such as Cross-Linguistic Undergraduate Board or Creative Writing Club. Visit UTRGV (utrgv.edu/vlink) for options.
- Create a résumé, and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Make summer plans. Visit the Career Center. Seek out jobs that develop new and marketable skills to add to your résumé.
- Research shows that university students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal.
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger. Locate campus perform better than those who work off campus.

Second Year

- Talk with ENGL 1300 and the English Core courses that fulfill requirements for all English majors.
- After English Core courses, declare your concentration in English, then proceed to fulfill requirements for it. Self-assess about which concentration within the English major works for you and your professional objectives and future goals.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year (15 each semester) that count to your degree plan.
- Continue to use the Writing Center and Learning Center.
- Talk with English faculty about your future career plans. Begin getting to know a range of faculty as you decide on your concentration for the English major.
- When you visit your academic advisor, come ready with course plans and questions. Empower yourself to register.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with public speaking.
- If you have trouble making your tuition payment, the Financial Aid Office can help.
- Look for ways to add value to your degree by getting experience in writing, communication, and teaching.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or the Engaged Scholar Symposium. Plan for how you can be active and add to your resume every semester.
- Find a way that you can give back to your local community.
- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as FESTIBA, HESTEC, and local Book Festivals.
- Join another student organization consider serving on a campus life committee. Visit Vink or Student Government Association (SGA) for more info.
- Attend events on campus and find people who share some of your interests.
- Update your résumé in Career Connection every semester. Have it reviewed regularly.
- Visit the Career Center site, and attend a Job Fair. Approach recruiters to discuss internships or hiring needs.
- Consider which minor you might do, such as English as a Second Language or Film Studies.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests. Self-assess your skills.

Third Year

- Talk with your major advisor. If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor, the Career Center, or your mentors in your major or minor field.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better, and complete 30 credit hours each year. A GPA of 3.0 is often the minimum for graduate admission.
- Have you already done an internship, acquired research experience, or collaborated on a major project with a public audience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Seek out research opportunities, community projects, and graduate school possibilities by talking with faculty members, mentors within your major, and professionals in the field.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year. Make sure Degree Works accurately reflects your degree and course coursework.
- Discuss internships with your advisors and Career Center.
- Look at the résumés of people who have a job you would like.
- Sharpen the writing skills that are crucial for an English major. You might tutor others, write for campus media (Rider, Pulse, UTRGV TV, Radio, etc.), and/or get co-curricular experiences that relate to the kind of job you may want to do in the future.
- Apply to present your research, service learning, or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium. To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Submit your writing for publication in Gallery and venues beyond UTRGV.
- Consider joining Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, or other campus organizations.
- Find a leadership role, a project-organization role, or a meaningful service role within an organization.
- Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.
- Continue to read widely and to develop your English major skills in writing, revising, editing, and design.
- Talk with alumni and mentors to get insights about career choices.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice and your résumé.
- If you are going to graduate school, make sure you are aware of deadlines. Late applicants are not accepted. Get faculty mentors to review application materials with you in advance.

Fourth Year

- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better, and complete 30 credit hours each year. A GPA of 3.0 is often the minimum for graduate admission.
- Have you already done an internship, acquired research experience, or collaborated on a major project with a public audience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Engage in an independent study project, an academic internship, a collaborative research program to complement your degree.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor. Include employment, finances, family, and life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center often to ensure you stay on track.
- Consider what you want to be doing and where you want to be in the future, such as in two years, in five years, and in ten years.
- Submit writing for possible publication. Get feedback on your submissions from peers and from English faculty.
- Submit writing for possible publication. Get feedback on your submissions from peers and from English faculty.
- Apply to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at a conference in your field.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (such as an alumna) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?” at www.utrgv.edu/careercenter

CAREERS

- Creative Writing
  - Novels: fiction and nonfiction
  - Poetry, plays, screenplays, and scripts
  - Greeting cards
  - Lyrics/Jingle writing
- Journalism:
  - Writing/Reporting
  - Editing
  - Critique
- Freelance writing
- Technical writing and editing
- Science and medical writing
- Grant and proposal writing
- Software and hardware documentation
- Information technology writing
- Human-computer interface design
- Corporate communications and training
- Mechanical communication

www.utrgv.edu/careercenter