The English Core consists of the following courses (see also the General Education Core of the College of Liberal Arts for this major):

- English Core Electives:
  - 3XX-4XX: 4 courses
  - ENGL 33XX: 2 courses
  - Literature (b)
  - Linguistics (c)
  - Literature (d)
  - Rhetorical Writing (d)

- English Elective:
  - 3XX (at least 6 hours from English courses)

- Concentration Electives:
  - 4XX: 4 courses

- Free Electives:
  - 4XX: 4 courses

- Senior English Capstone:
  - ENGL 4390

- Advanced Elective:
  - 3XX or 4XX

- Additional English coursework (at least six hours from English courses)

In their General Education core, English students are additionally required to choose two from among concentrations or tracks for their English major.

- The English Major requires students not pursuing teaching certification 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).

- Students are additionally required to choose a minor in a different subject or complete additional English coursework (at least six courses) for a total of 120 hours overall with 60 being advanced.

- 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.

- 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.

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www.utrgv.edu/degreeplans
BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

MILESTONES

ADVISE & SUPPORT

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

FIRST YEAR

- Talk with your English advisor and Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your first-year writing courses (3103 and 3104 or 2130 and 2133) during your first year.
- Complete 360 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 each course you take counts toward your degree plan.
- Visit faculty members during office hours to ask questions about class, your concentration for your major, and career options.
- Class: 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 that 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, to be part of UTRGV’s intellectual life.
- Join a student organization such as Cross-Linguistic Undergraduate Board or Creative Writing Club. Visit UTRGV (utrgv.edu/utrk) for options.
- Create a resume, and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Make summer plans. Visit the Career Center. Seek out jobs that develop new and marketable skills to add to your resume.
- Research shows that university students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus.
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger. Locate and attend student workshops or other events.

SECOND YEAR

- Talk with English faculty about your future career plans or to decide on a concentration.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out My Majors!
- When you visit your academic advisor, come ready with course plans and questions. Empower yourself.
- 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 UTRGV or Student Government Association (SGA) for more info.
- Attend events on campus and find people who share some of your interests.
- Update your resume in Handshake every semester. Have it reviewed regularly.
- Visit the Career Center site, and attend a Job Fair. Approach recruiters to discuss internships or hiring your resume.
- 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 English faculty about your future concentration, for the career that you want. Self-evaluate to be in the appropriate concentration for your skills and goals.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better, and complete 360 credit hours each year. A GPA of 3.0 is often the minimum needed for graduate admissions.
- 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.
- Talk with English faculty about your career plans.
- Take ENGL 3300 and the English Core courses that fulfill requirements for all English majors.
- After English Core courses, declare your concentration in English. Then, reapply to fulfill requirements for it. Self-assess about which concentration within the English major works for your professional objectives and future plans.
- Complete 360 credit hours each year (15 each semester) that count to your degree plan.
- Continue to use the Writing Center and Learning Center.

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

- Seek out research opportunities, community projects, and graduate school possibilities by talking with faculty members, mentors in 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 your coursework.
- Discuss internships with your advisors and Career Center.
- Look at the resumes of people who have a job you would like.
- Sharpen the writing skills that are crucial for any 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 Scholarship Symposium or at a conference in your field.
- Submit writing for publication in Gallery or venues beyond UTRGV.
- Consider joining Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and other campus organizations.
- Apply to attend the National Honors Conference and present research at regional or national conferences.
- Apply to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholarship Symposium or at a conference in your field.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school and/or for full-time employment.
- 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 are 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 public publication. Get feedback on your submissions from peers and from English faculty.
- Apply to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholarship Symposium or at a conference in your field.
- Update your contact information with Alumni Relations.
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school and/or an employment offer? If not, network: apply to faculty/Career Center and get on LinkedIn or other sites.
- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, and more. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Find a way to give back to your university and community by helping others to achieve like you have succeeded as a UTRGV Vaquero!
- Create a strategy for life after graduation. Attend career fairs and graduate fairs, apply to fellowships, talk to family.
- Contact your information on Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events, and continued access to Career Center services!
- If applicable, do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

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

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

U TRio Grande Valley