

BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

THIRD YEAR

FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

CAREERS

MILESTONES

- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years. Make sure all credits count toward your degree.
- If you entered with credits, begin courses for your major now, in addition to completing required General Education courses.
- Use resources such as the Learning Center and the Writing Center.

ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor, and bring your orientation folder with you to every session. Make sure every course you take counts toward your degree plan.
- Visit faculty members during office hours to ask questions about class, your English concentration, or future career options.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group.
- Take advantage of campus resources. For instance, Student Health Services is on campus and has free office visits.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors!

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- 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.
- Get tutoring, substituting, or volunteer experience in schools.
- Form study groups with fellow students in your classes.

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Learn about and participate in the communities in which you want to work as a teacher.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu. Update it each semester.
- Attend academic and co-curricular events on campus to be part of the intellectual and social life of UTRGV.
- Join a student organization such as Cross-Linguistic Undergraduate Board or Creative Writing Club. Visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink).

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- As you plan for summer work, seek opportunities to work with the age group you want to teach.
- Create a résumé, and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger. Locate and attend student workshops or other events.

- Take ENGL 3300 and the English Core courses that fulfill requirements for all English majors. Also take courses for your concentration within the English major.
- If you hope to be a teacher, choose the English Language Arts concentration and apply for admission to the College of Education and P-16 Integration (CEP) while completing 60 hours toward your degree plan. Deadlines for CEP admission are every semester.
- Take at least 30 credit hours annually that count to this degree plan.

- Talk with English faculty about your future career plans. Get to know English education faculty such as Dr. David Bowles, Dr. Amy Cummins and Dr. Ronny Noor.
- When you visit your academic advisor, come ready with course plans and questions. Empower yourself.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.

- Plan for how you can make the most of your UTRGV time by adding skills and lines for your résumé every semester.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute, the Engaged Scholar Symposium, or other learning opportunities.
- Look for ways to add value to your degree by getting experience in writing, communication, and teaching.
- Look at study abroad opportunities!

- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as FESTIBA, HESTEC, and local Book Festivals.
- Join another student organization. Visit VLink to find out more.
- Attend events on campus. Find people who share some of your interests, maybe in class or in a club such as BESO.
- Visit the Career Center site, and plan to attend the Teacher Job Fair every year. Ask questions to the recruiters.

- Update your résumé in Handshake.
- Developing your bilingual skills further will enhance employability in teaching English Language Arts.

- Make sure you have been admitted to the College of Education and P-16 Integration and are taking required coursework.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better, and complete 30 credit hours or more every year. Make sure you are taking the exact courses needed for the certification track of the English major.
- Begin preparations for your certification exams (PPR and English content test). You must pass before Clinical Teaching. Also get to know faculty in the College of Education & P-16 Integration who can help prepare you.
- Prepare for and pass TExES teacher certification exams.
- Talk with the English Education Coordinator for more information and guidance in the English teacher preparation process.
- Seek out research opportunities or graduate school possibilities by talking with faculty members or mentors.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year. Make sure Degree Works accurately reflects your degree and coursework. Meet with advisors.
- Continue to use the Writing Center and the Learning Center.

- Sharpen the writing skills that are crucial for an English major. Tutor others, write for campus media (Rider, Pulse, UTRGV TV, Radio, etc.), and submit your writing for publication in *Gallery* and in venues beyond UTRGV.
- Read widely so that you can develop the knowledge necessary to teach literature and writing to diverse learners.
- Do your observation hours, and follow required sequences of coursework for EDUC/READ coursework.
- Consider joining Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and other honor societies and campus organizations.
- Gain work or volunteering experiences in school settings.
- Find a leadership role, a project-organization role, or a meaningful service role within a campus organization.
- Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.

- Now is the time you need to plan for your future career. Talk with alumni, faculty, and mentors to get insights.
- Plan for the three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, field supervisors, etc.). Have them look over 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.

- Apply for Clinical Teaching. Deadlines are with the College of Education and P-16 Integration.
- Take and pass your teacher certification exams in advance of the semester in which you will do Clinical Teaching.
- Complete degree requirements for English majors (including the capstone ENGL 4390) and for the College of Education.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours annually in order to graduate. Double-check that you are on track to graduate and have completed all requirements.
- Submit your applications for jobs and/or for graduate school.

- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center often to ensure you are on track.
- Make use of the multiple sources of advising and support for your teacher certification track with the English major. Advocate for yourself, and empower yourself to persist throughout this program.
- Engage in an independent study project, an academic internship, a collaborative research program to complement your degree.
- Discuss your future plans with family, faculty mentors, and advisors. Include employment, finances, and life goals.
- Your semester of Clinical Teaching is the culmination of your work in this teacher certification track. This shows how the field really works. It also prepares you for your first full-time teaching job. The CEP Pinning Ceremony celebrates your completion of Clinical Teaching.

- Submit your writing for possible publication. Get feedback on your submissions from peers and from faculty. Or apply to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at a conference. Keep developing as a writer.
- Build up your list of possible references at the school where you are doing your Clinical Teaching.
- Identify employers and school districts of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, and more. Apply for jobs and get interview experience.
- Find a way to give back to your university, community, or family by helping others to achieve like you have succeeded at UTRGV!

- Make sure you apply for multiple jobs and weigh various employment offers.
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school and/or an employment offer? If not, network: apply, talk to faculty, Career Center and get on LinkedIn or other sites.
- Update your contact info with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events, and continued access to Career Center services!
- Do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.

- Teaching
- Tutoring
- Research
- Administration
- Public and private K-12 schools
- Colleges and universities
- Language institutes, local and abroad
- Libraries
- Museums
- Private learning centers
- Test preparation organizations
- Nonprofit organizations involved with literacy
- Information/Library Science
- Non-classroom Teaching
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

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