English

Faculty Office Bldg. (47), Room 32-E
Phone: 805.756.2596
http://english.calpoly.edu/

Department Chair: Kathryn Rummell

Academic Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Program type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>BA, Minor, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The English Department offers Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts programs, minors in English and Linguistics, and certificates in Teaching English as a Second Language and Technical Communications. Additionally, in cooperation with the School of Education, the department prepares undergraduates and graduates for careers in secondary school teaching. Finally, the English Department provides a wide array of general education courses in composition, literature, film, and creative writing.

An English major or minor is valuable preparation for any career in which critical thinking, nuanced analysis, and clear communication are essential. Many of our majors pursue graduate study in English, education, creative writing, or law; the major provides an excellent foundation for all of these fields. First and foremost, however, students of English are humanists, deeply concerned about the welfare of others. Through imaginatively inhabiting the worlds writers create, English students gain empathy, tolerance, and perspective, habits of mind that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Certificate Programs

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)

The TESL certificate program provides individuals with specialized training to teach successfully in a wide variety of ESL programs. Both undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in any degree program at Cal Poly may pursue this certificate.

The 30-unit TESL program provides a solid background in theoretical and applied linguistics, cross-cultural communication, second language acquisition, and methods of TESL. The program is designed for two career options:

1. The Post-Secondary/Adult option prepares individuals to teach in college level and adult education programs. Those wishing to teach at the college level are advised that an MA in English or a related field is the usual minimum requirement for full-time positions.

2. The K-12 option prepares individuals having a single or multiple subject credential to teach ESL in elementary and secondary schools.

Technical Communication

Commercial, academic and governmental organizations employ technical communicators as writers, editors, public relations experts, information designers, documentation and project managers, and as mixed media creators. The technical communicator is, first and foremost, an accomplished writer who produces clear, precise, timely, and effective prose. However, technical communicators also are adept at integrating texts and images into cohesive creations that exist equally well on paper and on the computer screen. Technical communicators write online and print computer documentation, create and manage complex sets of technical specifications, write overviews of scientific and technical processes, and produce a diverse range of documents that are used both by the expert and by the layperson. Technical communicators often serve as translators, interpreting the continually changing language of advanced technology into a language we can all easily understand.

Undergraduate Programs

BA English

The curriculum for the Bachelor of Arts in English offers students both structure and freedom of choice. Students take a required course in world literature and one in linguistics, along with an introduction to literary studies and a six-course sequence of British and American literature. The other eight English courses are chosen by the student and can include creative writing, literature, film, linguistics, composition/rhetoric, and technical communications. A Senior Project in the student’s field of interest provides the capstone to the English major.

English majors must also demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in a language other than English. Cal Poly offers intermediate-level instruction in several languages. We encourage majors to study abroad, and many students choose to complete their language requirement in another country.

Though the core of the major is literature, students may choose an emphasis in fiction- or poetry-writing. The emphasis consists of one introductory workshop, two advanced workshops, one upper-division course in modern or contemporary literature in the student's chosen genre, and the senior project in that genre.

English Minor

An English minor complements any major, adding richness and depth to students’ educations. The newly-revised curriculum boasts literature courses to help students cultivate empathy and insight; writing courses to help students practice essential communication skills; and linguistics courses to provide an understanding of the nature and power of language. Students interested in pursuing an English minor should meet with the minor advisor to review the requirements.

Linguistics Minor

Cal Poly's English Department offers a range of linguistics and applied linguistics courses designed for the beginning linguist or the non-linguist. Linguistics, the science of language, studies our mental capacity to produce and comprehend language, the varied patterns that the world's languages use to express meaning, and the natural facts of diversity and change within and across languages. Applied linguistics in our Department includes teaching English to speakers of other languages, applications of linguistics in the K-12 language arts classroom, history of English, language and gender, and other varied topics.

Linguistics enriches the English major's understanding of and appreciation for English and other languages, not just by acquainting them with the structure of English, but also by exploding popular myths which often lead to ill-informed personal or policy judgments.
Study of linguistics can be useful as preparation for a variety of occupations: teaching language arts, English, or other languages; working in journalism or editing and publishing; engagement with literature in teaching, criticism or authorship; and a variety of applications in computer-mediated uses of language.

Master of Arts Degree in English

General Characteristics

This program includes the study of literature, literary criticism, linguistics, and theory of composition. It is designed to provide students with the knowledge and command of English that prepares them specifically for:

• teaching English at the secondary or community college levels;
• further graduate work at other institutions;
• employment in business, industry, and government service where effective communication skills are demanded;
• self-directed development in writing.

Prerequisites

Students admitted to the English MA Program must have a major or minor in English from an accredited institution (or the equivalent, as determined by the English Graduate Committee), have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 for the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units), and a writing sample submitted to the English Graduate Advisor. Non-native speakers should also submit TOEFL scores (Test of English as a Foreign Language). Students without an English major or minor may apply and be admitted conditionally, requiring them to take certain prerequisites prior to taking English graduate classes.

Program of Study

• 48 units of graduate work approved by the English Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate Committee;
• a grade point average of 3.0 or better in all courses taken subsequent to admission;
• two years of a foreign language (e.g., French, Spanish, German) or certification of the equivalent;
• a comprehensive examination at the end of 48 units of study.

All other requirements must be satisfied before the comprehensive examination is taken. Students elect an emphasis within the Master of Arts program: literature, linguistics, or composition.

Application

Application for admission and requests for further information should be directed to the Admissions Office. All applications should include a writing sample (a critical essay on a work of literature) and three letters of recommendation.