

# Plan for the English Major

Name:

Class:

Current Advisor:

Date:

Preference for Major Advisor:

Although you will be filling out the College “Declaration of Major and Comprehensive Academic Plan,” which allows you to sketch a plan for all of your remaining courses at Grinnell, the Department wants you here to focus on your planned choices for fulfilling the English major requirements. In Part I, we ask for information that will help us advise you. In Part II, we set out the Department’s learning goals for all students, but especially for majors, and in Parts III and IV, we take you through the different categories in the major requirements. Part V describes the standard for Honors in the Department.

## Part I: Description of your objectives

Please give a brief explanation of your reasons for wishing to declare an English major.

Are you thinking of going to graduate school after graduation? If so, what kind of program?

Do you plan to seek certification in primary or secondary education in addition to your English major? If so, which one?

Do you plan to study off campus before graduating? If so, please indicate when, where, and how long you plan to be off campus, and the courses you expect to study while off campus.

Do you plan to take an interdisciplinary concentration? If so, which one?

## Part II: Departmental Learning Goals

The Department of English at Grinnell helps students, through the study of literature, to expand their intellectual curiosity, to strengthen their abilities in critical and creative thinking, and to achieve disciplined independence as readers, thinkers, and writers.

We want our students to

- become familiar with a substantial and diverse body of texts in English or that inform English-language literary works,
- analyze texts from a range of critical and theoretical perspectives,
- learn the techniques of academic research in English,
- develop the skills that contribute to persuasive argumentation and stylistic elegance,
- develop the skills required to contribute by creative expression to the traditions they study,
- become familiar with the theories and practices of inter- or multidisciplinary scholarship, and
- develop the skills of revision and rigorous self-criticism.

We expect English majors to gain more experience in these practices and therefore to achieve the goals more fully than our non-major students. Our Curricular Map, which is available on the departmental website, explains how we emphasize different combinations of these goals in different areas of our curriculum. For example, the 200-level "Traditions" courses are most centrally concerned with the first goal; "Craft" courses and writing seminars emphasize creative expression, revision, and rigorous self-criticism; and seminars place more weight on research skills and the use of critical and theoretical materials.

## Part III: Departmental Coursework

This section allows us to see quickly how you plan to navigate the requirements and opportunities of the English major.

Course	When Taken (Sem/Yr)	OR	To Be Taken (Sem/yr)	
English 120/121	_____		_____	(1)
<i>200-level "Early" course</i>				
English 223/227	_____		_____	(2)
<i>200-level British or Postcolonial course (may not be the same as the early course)</i>				
English 223/224/225/226 (circle one)	_____		_____	(3)
<i>200-level American course (may not be the same as the early course)</i>				
English 227/228/229/231/232 (circle one)	_____		_____	(4)
<i>200-level genres or methods course (may not be the same as the early course)</i>				
English 204/205/206/207/210/230/ 273/274/290 or HUM 290 (circle one)	_____		_____	(5)
<i>Seminar courses (not including individual work; must include two literature courses)</i>				
Three 4-credit 300-level courses (write course numbers with Sem/Yr)	_____		_____	(6)
	_____		_____	(7)
	_____		_____	(8)
Other English courses (write course numbers with Sem/Yr; 36 total credits are required in English, so you should fill in at least line 9)	_____		_____	(9)
	_____		_____	(optional)
	_____		_____	(optional)
One four-credit course in HUM, GLS, or a foreign language department (in literature at the 200 level or above)	_____		_____	(10)

## Part IV: Language Requirement

The language requirement may be satisfied by

- a) completion of second-semester college coursework in a non-native language or
- b) demonstration of equivalent competence by examination.

Note: The number of semesters of course work is satisfied by the completion of the last course in the required sequence. For example, the successful completion of second-semester Spanish (Spanish 106) in one's first semester at Grinnell satisfies the requirement. Students with knowledge of or course work in languages not offered at Grinnell may petition the department for credit towards the language requirement.

Which of the four options do you plan to take (a or b)?

If you need to do coursework to complete the requirement, please indicate below when you plan to take the course or courses.

Course Name	Course Number	When Taken Or To Be Taken
1.		
2.		

## Part V: Honors in English

To be considered for honors in English, graduating seniors must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 and a major GPA of 3.75 by the end of their seventh semester. In special circumstances students may be nominated by two or more faculty members for honors based on other scholarly achievements or contributions to the department.