Why Major in English?
Employers in all industries love to hire English majors. Why? Because they appreciate the fact that English majors know how to communicate effectively and think critically. Penn State Altoona English majors master these skills through courses in literature, writing, and rhetoric. By studying American, British, non-Anglo-American, and world literatures, you’ll learn how to synthesize and analyze information; formulate reasoned arguments and judgments; and develop perspectives on human nature, culture, and diversity. These skills help graduates find careers in such fields as business, marketing, social media management, government, publishing, advertising, professional and technical writing, journalism, and teaching. English majors frequently go on to postgraduate study not only in English and creative writing but also in law, business, education, medicine, and various liberal arts disciplines. In addition, you’ll have the opportunity to participate in career internships and in Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Concentrations Within the Major
The English major offers two concentrations: Creative Writing and Global Narratives. The Creative Writing concentration will hone your skills in both practical and creative forms by providing you with instruction and intensive practice in writing. The Global Narratives concentration is designed for students who wish to expand their literary studies in English by exploring literatures and other narrative forms from a wide geographic and temporal scope.

Professional Writing and English Minors
Designed to complement all bachelor’s degree programs, the English minor and professional writing minor afford students courses that improve critical reading and writing skills which are valuable regardless of students’ educational and professional goals.

Writing and Publishing Opportunities
Interested in creative writing? Penn State Altoona students can take workshops in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and playwriting. Want hands-on experience and practice of your professional skills? Consider writing for the Collegiate Review, the student newspaper, or Hard Freight, the college literary magazine. Outside of the classroom, engage with visiting writers and with the current Emerging Writer-in-Residence. Creative writing faculty have won national and international awards, have published dozens of books, and are excited to help you reach your potential.

Contact
The Division of Arts and Humanities
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Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601
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englishaltoona@psu.edu

Through the English program, I’ve had the chance to travel and do research. I’ve learned to think critically and become a better writer.

My professors helped me get into a competitive graduate school, offering guidance, support and recommendations. I love them all – they’re awesome!

Heather Myers
Altoona, PA
English major

altoona.psu.edu/english
## RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN

### English, B.A.

#### SEMESTER 1
- Rhetoric and Composition or Honors Freshman Composition 3
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Course 3
- Foreign Language Course 4
- Quantification Course 3
- Elective 3
- **Total credits** 16

#### SEMESTER 2
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- Effective Speech 3
- Humanities Course 3
- Foreign Language Course 4
- Natural Sciences Course 3
- **Total credits** 16

#### SEMESTER 3
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Course 3
- Introduction to Critical Reading or What is Literature? 3
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- Foreign Language Course 4
- Quantification Course 3
- **Total credits** 16

#### SEMESTER 4
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- Elective 3
- Natural Sciences Course 3
- Arts Course 3
- B.A. Requirement 3
- **Total credits** 15

#### SEMESTER 5
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- 400-level English Period Selection 3
- Natural Sciences Course 3
- B.A. Requirement 3
- Elective 3
- **Total credits** 15

#### SEMESTER 6
- 400-level English Period Selection 3
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- Effective Writing: Writing in the Social Sciences or Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities or Effective Writing: Technical Writing or Effective Writing: Business Writing 3
- Arts Course 3
- Elective 3
- **Total credits** 15

#### SEMESTER 7
- 400-level English Period Selection 3
- English Literature, Writing, or Rhetoric 3
- Other Cultures 3
- B.A. Requirement 3
- Health and Physical Activity Course 1.5
- Senior Seminar 3
- **Total credits** 16.5

#### SEMESTER 8
- 400-level English Period Selection 3
- Elective 3
- Health and Physical Activity Course 1.5
- Elective 3
- Elective 3
- **Total credits** 13.5