

English and Writing



THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA

B.A. in English

B.A. in Journalism

B.A. in Writing

B.S. in Secondary English Education

Minor in English

Minor in Journalism

Minor in Writing

Minor in Professional and Technical Writing

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of
Other Languages (TESOL)

Graduates of UT's Department of English and Writing are accomplished journalists, novelists, editors and scholars — professionals who require not only exceptional writing skills but also the ability to examine the world with a critical eye. As one of the first schools in the nation to offer a major in creative writing, UT is still among a select few that offer both bachelor's and master's degrees in writing and a double major in English and writing.

What Will You Learn?

The **English major** acquaints students with historical and contemporary literary traditions in courses that enhance reading, writing and interpretive skills. The department fosters an appreciation of literature and cultivates the knowledge and sensitivity needed to use language in effective ways. Students learn to analyze and critique patterns of language that appear before them in great literature, as well as in film and other media forms. A **minor in English** is also available.

The **writing major** educates students in the art and craft of written communication, combining liberal arts ideals with practical, real-world applications. Students can choose to concentrate on creative writing or professional and technical writing. They may also **minor in writing**.

Both English and writing majors are exposed to the breadth and depth of literary tradition. Students are encouraged to become familiar not only with mainstream texts, but also multiethnic and international literature, storytelling, avant-garde and countercultural expression, and major contemporary voices in creative and professional writing.

Students may also choose the **journalism major**, one of UT's interdisciplinary programs. Classes are offered in both the Department of English and Writing and the Department of Communication, allowing students to gain experience writing in several news genres and across various platforms. Students study journalism history, law and professional ethics, and they apply that knowledge to news gathering, writing

and multimedia skills in both classroom and internship settings. They also integrate knowledge from other fields of study into their journalistic work and may develop areas of specialized reporting. A **minor in journalism** is also offered.

UT's **MFA in Creative Writing** utilizes a low-residency model. This graduate program builds upon the University's strong reputation for creative writing. It is taught by a faculty of published writers who have distinguished themselves as teachers and literary artists. Highly regarded authors and editors also serve as instructors in the program. Students study literature and the writing craft by creating works of original fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry during five 10-day residencies over the course of four semesters.

FACULTY highlights



John Capouya
associate professor

John Capouya specializes in journalism and nonfiction creative writing. He previously worked as an editor at *Newsweek*, *The New York Times* and *SmartMoney* magazine. His last book, *Gorgeous George*, is being adapted for film; his current book project, *Florida Soul*, is a history of rhythm and blues music in Florida. Capouya also teaches nonfiction writing in UT's MFA program.



Erica Dawson
associate professor

Erica Dawson specializes in poetry writing, 20th-century poetry, poetics and aesthetics, as well as Renaissance literature, particularly Shakespearean drama and the cavalier poets. She is the author of *The Small Blades Hurt* and *Big-Eyed Afraid*, both works of poetry. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Best American Poetry*. Dawson is the director of UT's MFA program.

Learn by Doing

English and writing students have ample opportunities to get published and work in real-world editorial and business environments, often earning credit in the process.

Student Publications and Media

- *The Minaret*, award-winning student newspaper in print and online
- *Neon*, student literary and arts journal
- *The Moroccan*, student yearbook
- *Respondez!*, student scholarly journal published by the Honors program
- WUTT, student-run radio station
- UT TV, student-produced TV station

The Minaret Recognitions

- Associated Collegiate Press Online Pacemaker contest winner, 2013
- Florida College Press Association third best weekly student newspaper, 2013
- Society of Professional Journalists second place Best All Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper, 2012
- Associated Collegiate Press National College Journalism Convention: best small school website (*The Minaret Online*) and third best four-year weekly newspaper (print), 2010



Internships

As a top-15 media market, Tampa is home to many print publications, TV stations and radio stations. In fact, Tampa is one of the few metro areas to have two competing daily newspapers: the *Tampa Bay Times* and *The Tampa Tribune*. UT students have interned with many local media outlets and national companies including:

- Local affiliates of ABC, NBC and FOX
- CNN
- *The Tampa Tribune*
- *Tampa Bay Times*
- *Tampa Bay Business Journal*
- *Creative Loafing*
- WMNF Community Radio 88.5
- Straz Center for the Performing Arts
- American Red Cross
- Lionsgate Films

Writing Intensive Courses

More than 325 courses across the curriculum are offered as writing intensive courses. Sample courses include:

- Horror Literature and Film
- Printing, Publishing and Book Arts
- Nature and Environmental Writing
- Writing as a Means of Self-Discovery
- Technical and Professional Editing
- Writing for Interactive Media
- Post-Colonial Literature
- Multiethnic U.S. Literature and Film

Most writing courses are capped at 15 students. All graduating seniors must submit a portfolio of their best writing from each year of study. Top portfolios are recognized with an award.

What Can You Do With These Majors?

English and writing majors learn how to communicate and analyze material, and how to solve problems effectively. They acquire a wide array of professional skills, preparing them to pursue graduate study and careers in many different fields. After graduation, they often find positions in education, advertising, journalism, public relations, publishing, multimedia (film, TV and radio), government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Some graduates further their education by attending law school or pursuing a master's degree or Ph.D. Schools attended by UT English and writing alumni include:

- University of Iowa Writers' Workshop
- University of London
- Oxford
- Northwestern
- New York University
- University of Florida
- Georgetown
- Vanderbilt
- Rutgers
- Brandeis
- University of Virginia

Lectores Public Reading Series

Students have a unique opportunity to meet and interact with acclaimed literary figures during UT's Lectores public reading series. Renowned writers, editors and publishers visit campus for readings, lectures and question-and-answer sessions. Held twice a year, this weeklong series enriches the literary perspective of students. Past guests have included Michael Connelly, Arthur Flowers, Nick Flynn, Francine Prose, George Saunders, Amy Hill Hearth and Miranda July. View the upcoming schedule at www.ut.edu/mfacw/lectores.

Adrienne Nadeau '07
Degree: B.A. in writing
Minor: English literature
Hometown: Clearwater, FL

Upon graduation from UT, Adrienne started her own nonprofit, The Warrior Women, Inc. "My organization brought creative workshops and poetic performances to at-risk youth," she said. Running the organization sparked her interest in business, so Adrienne moved to Chicago to pursue an MBA from the University of Illinois-Chicago, graduating in 2012. She now works as a foodservice research analyst for a leading foodservice consulting firm, Technomic. Adrienne continues to engage her love of poetry as a volunteer coordinator for Chicago Slam Works. She has also performed in many poetry slams, including the National Poetry Slam. "Stay true to your passion, but stay open to new experiences," she advised.

Study Abroad Opportunities

UT offers a variety of travel courses to internationalize its curriculum. Students enrolled in ENG 233 African Trauma Narratives use literature to study traumas and social conflict in Africa. In the past, English, writing and journalism students have traveled to Ghana and Sierra Leone to enhance their studies.

Scholarship and Engagement

Students are encouraged to participate in various events hosted by the University to encourage scholarly engagement and professional exploration. During the Scholars' Symposia, students learn from active scholars about their research. At the annual Student Tapas event, students present and discuss their research with one another.



alumni profiles

Mikey Rumore '12

Ph.D. candidate in the City University of New York's English program; assistant fiction editor at *Guernica*

Derrick Austin '11

Student in the University of Michigan's MFA poetry program; teaches composition and creative writing

Victor O'Brien '07

Reporter for the *Community Impact Newspaper* in Austin, TX

Connie May Fowler '82

Novelist and screenwriter; adapted her book *Before Women Had Wings* for the Emmy-winning motion picture starring Oprah Winfrey

Amy Hill Hearth '82

New York Times bestselling author; wrote *Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters* with former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

College of Arts and Letters English and Writing



Katelyn Edwards '15

Major: English

Minors: art and economics

Hometown: Winter Park, FL

Activities: Honors at Oxford participant, *Neon* editor, Student Government senator

"The possibilities for English majors are endless," said Katelyn, who has seized the chance to study abroad, visiting Portugal as a participant in a writing program and Ghana as a journalist for SmileTrain. She has also been selected for UT's prestigious Oxford University study abroad program. Katelyn spent two years working as the assistant to UT's MFA director — a position that allowed her to meet multiple Pulitzer Prize-winning authors. She also served as an intern with *Newsweek* during the 2012 Republican National Convention. Katelyn is currently the editor-in-chief of UT's literary journal, *Neon*. "I would never have received the opportunities provided to me at UT if I chosen to go somewhere else," she said.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Department of English and Writing offers annual scholarships of up to \$2,500 per year through the Tampa Writing Scholars Program. This national competition recognizes individuals demonstrating talent in the field of language arts. Scholarships are open to new entering students (fall term only). Applicants must:

- Have an unweighted GPA of 3.2, 1100 SAT or 24 ACT
- Demonstrate exceptional potential for achievement in English or writing
- Major in English or writing
- Join the staff of a UT publication

Additionally, applicants are required to submit five to 10 poems or up to 15 pages of short fiction, essays, nonfiction, journalism or a combination of forms and an autobiography of 300–500 words prior to Feb. 1. Learn additional details at www.ut.edu/englishhandwriting/scholarships.

Saunders Writing Center

Directed by the Department of English and Writing, the Saunders Writing Center provides **one-on-one peer tutoring** to help sharpen writing skills. Undergraduate and graduate students work as tutors, gaining teaching experience that is attractive to employers and graduate schools. Tutors typically focus on required academic writing, but will provide resources for any genre. To learn more, visit www.ut.edu/academic-support/saunders.

Student Organizations

UT hosts a chapter of **Sigma Tau Delta**, the international English honor society. Students with a qualifying GPA can apply for membership to this organization, which works to promote interest in literature and writing at UT and hosts a variety of scholarship and service activities. English and writing majors are also encouraged to join any of the University's **student publications**.



About UT

The University of Tampa is a medium-sized, private university offering more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Richly diverse, UT is the school of choice for approximately 8,310 students from all 50 states and 140 countries.

Visit www.ut.edu/englishhandwriting to learn more about UT and the Department of English and Writing.



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