The undergraduate major in English affords students an integrated, comprehensive learning program that teaches the fundamental ways of organizing knowledge in the discipline. The major also provides students with a core of knowledge and skills essential to career choices that require creative thinking and communication skills. Students receiving an undergraduate degree in English may teach in the public schools (with teacher licensure that is part of the degree), or pursue careers in writing, editing, publishing, or communication-related work in business and industry. The graduate program in English offers masters’ tracks in literature and English Education (with optional teacher licensure). One of its main features is a competitive teaching fellowship program that gives selected students experience in the classroom through participation in a learning community with experienced faculty members. Students receiving a master’s degree in English may teach in the secondary schools or community colleges or pursue further graduate study on the doctoral level. Others may enter various professions where critical thinking, communication skills, and writing are valued and employed.

Undergraduate Program: The major commences with the course: Introduction to English Studies, which introduces the various aspects of the major, gives instruction in research and writing in the discipline, and allows students to plan the rest of their program based on their career trajectories. The major then offers courses that explore the various ways of learning in the discipline, such as surveys, period courses, and single author courses. During the last semester, students take a capstone course: Senior Seminar which reviews the various parts of the major and culminates in the production of a senior thesis. Three optional concentrations are offered:

* English Education, courses include ENGL 402, Teaching Writing, ENGL 425, Adolescent Literature, ENGL 426, Teaching English in the High School, ENGL 428 Planning and Teaching Seminar, 1 3-400 level Writing Course, 1 3-400 level ENGL course plus one year of blocking and student teaching which leads to teacher licensure. The placement rate for English majors with an Education concentration in the schools systems is nearly 100%. They are carefully supervised by the English Education faculty and often put in contact with the public school system as pre-service teachers. Many graduates are also employed in the non-profit, government, and business sectors in work that capitalizes on their writing, editing, and research skills. Several others go on for further study in English and related fields.

* Creative Writing: students can choose to take their 12 credit hours of major electives from: ENGL 309, Fiction Writing, ENGL 310, Poetry Writing, ENGL 312, Creative Non-Fiction Writing, ENGL 409, Advanced Fiction Writing or ENGL 410, Advanced Poetry Writing

* Technical and Business Writing: ENGL 306, Professional Writing, ENGL 403, Grammar and Style for Writers, ENGL 406, Advanced Technical Writing, ENGL 407, Technical Editing

M.A. (Master of Arts) 24 hours of coursework, 6 hours of thesis, Comprehensive written exam, oral thesis defense, Reading proficiency in a foreign language

M.S. (Master of Science) 33 hours of coursework, Comprehensive written and oral exams

To apply for admission contact the Office of Admissions, Box 6903, Radford, VA 24142 or you may apply online at www.radford.edu.
Extracurricular Activities
Sigma Tau Delta is the National Honors Society in the discipline of English and is open to undergraduate and graduate English majors who meet the qualifications. The Department also has an active English Club that meets regularly and hosts special activities such as open mike readings and field trips to plays, movies, and festivals of literary interest. The Department also holds yearly creative writing contests in fiction and poetry, and students may also work on the staff of or contribute to Exit 109, the campus creative arts magazine.

Transfer Opportunities
Students wishing to transfer from the VCCS should complete an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts & Science degree.

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