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 HUMD 300, Human Development ENGL 402, Teaching Writing, ENGL 423, Teaching Reading in the English Classroom, ENGL 425, Adolescent Literature, 3-400 level course with ENGL prefix, COMS 114, 240 or 330 for licensure, a semester of early field experience, and a semester of student teaching including, ENGL 428, Planning and Teaching Seminar,

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
* Professional and Technical Writing: ENGL 306, Professional Writing, ENGL 308, Professional Writing Technologies, ENGL 406, Advanced Technical Writing, ENGL 407, Technical Editing

* B.A. (Bachelor of Arts): 120 hours The B.A. program consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six to eight hours of study in one foreign language, and 48 hours of English coursework
* B.S. (Bachelor of Science): 120 hours The B.S. degree consists of 43 to 45 hours of Core Curriculum coursework, six to eight hours of additional math, science, computer-based, communication or social science coursework, and 48 hours of English coursework

To apply for admission contact the Office of Admissions, Box 6903, Radford, VA 24142 or you may apply online at www.radford.edu.

Graduate Program: The degree begins with ENGL 600, an introduction to advanced research in the discipline. Students then complete either a literature or English Education master’s.

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

Additional courses in English Education are required for the M.A. and M.S. in that track. Students may also meet requirements to obtain a secondary teaching license, if possible.
English Major

Study Abroad Opportunities
The International Education Center offers programs on a semester, summer, or academic year basis. Several summer programs are offered by the Department of English, including:

* Literary Trails: study of major literary figures and sites in Ireland and Italy
* Tracing the path of Ernest Hemingway through Eastern Europe

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 Creative Writing 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. Students who are interested 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.

Faculty

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