

# English and Philosophy

Department website: <https://www.isu.edu/english/>

## Programs

Program Description	Type	Degree
Accelerated English, B.A. Literary Option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/accelerated-ba-english-literary/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/accelerated-ba-english-literary/</a> )	Degree	B.A./M.A.
English, BA, Literary Option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-literary/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-literary/</a> )	Degree	B.A.
English, BA, Professional Writing Option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-professional-writing/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-professional-writing/</a> )	Degree	B.A.
English, BA, Creative Writing Option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-creative-writing/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-english-creative-writing/</a> )	Degree	B.A.
Philosophy, BA, Traditional option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-philosophy-traditional/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-philosophy-traditional/</a> )	Degree	B.A.
Philosophy BA, Pre-law option ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-philosophy-pre-law/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/ba-philosophy-pre-law/</a> )	Degree	B.A.
English, Minor - Literature ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-literature/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-literature/</a> )	Minor	
English, Minor - Professional Writing ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-professional-writing/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-professional-writing/</a> )	Minor	
English, Minor - Creative Writing ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-creative-writing/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-english-creative-writing/</a> )	Minor	
Ethics, Minor ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-ethics/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-ethics/</a> )	Minor	
Film Studies, Minor ( <a href="https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-film-studies/">https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-film-studies/</a> )	Minor	

Philosophy, Minor (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-philosophy/>)

Minor

Philosophy and Religion, Minor (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/minor-philosophy-and-religion/>)

Minor

Biomedical Ethics, Academic Certificate (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/certificate-biomedical-ethics/>)

Certificate

Technical Communication, Certificate (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/humanities-education-social-science/school-of-humanities/englishandphilosophy/certificate-technical-communication/>)

Certificate

## Department Overview

The Department of English and Philosophy offers broad curricula in two disciplines. English studies develop writing skills, explore human experience as represented in literature, and treat the nature of language. Philosophy courses examine such topics as the nature of reality, the ways that knowledge is acquired, and the basis for ethical choices.

The department offers the B.A. and M.A. in English, the Ph.D. in English and Teaching of English, and the B.A. in philosophy. English and Philosophy courses also can contribute to the general education and personal enrichment of students in all disciplines.

Equipped with an undergraduate degree in either English or philosophy, students are prepared to enter graduate degree programs, to pursue training in such professions as journalism, law, religion, or medicine, or to embark upon a great variety of careers in government, business, and industry that demand broad, liberal arts perspectives and strong observational, fact-finding, analytical, and communication skills. English students with certification are prepared for careers in elementary and secondary education.

## English Program

The English undergraduate program offers majors and minors in Literature, Professional Writing, and Creative Writing.

The Department has articulated the following goals and student learning outcomes for students at the undergraduate level.

### Mission and Goals

Undergraduate English programs in the Department of English and Philosophy provide students wishing to pursue a liberal arts education training in the study of language, literature, writing, and culture. Such training will provide students with strong communication skills, an ability to gather information and use it critically, an understanding of the function of language within the culture, and a historical and critical understanding of the role literature plays within the human experience.

### Student Learning Outcomes

All graduates with English majors and minors will be able to:

- Produce writing that thoughtfully addresses multiple audiences, perspectives, genres, and disciplinary conventions, and makes effective use of research.
- Analyze and interpret complex texts by reading critically, with close attention to language and ideas.
- Demonstrate an understanding of common linguistic principles, and the historical, social, cultural, and dialectal backgrounds of English.

Graduates from the English Literary Option will be able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in literary analysis by analyzing written, oral, and visual texts critically and applying the approaches of major theoretical schools.
- Analyze the historical and literary trends of specific periods and cultural identities.
- Describe multimodal forms and genres, and their origins, evolution, and aesthetic effects.

Graduates from the English Creative Writing Option will be able to:

- Develop writing in multiple genres that acknowledges both traditional and innovative prosody and narrative techniques.
- Productively critique their own and their classmates' creative efforts by analyzing literary works from a craft perspective.
- Characterize the literary elements of diverse genres across various historical periods and cultures.

Graduates from the English Professional Writing Option will be able to:

- Create clear, concise documents that help audiences accomplish specific tasks, solve problems, and understand complex and technical information.
- Make effective and ethical choices about style, organization, content, and design.
- Produce a variety of print and digital media using words, images, and other modes.

### Placement in English Composition Courses

Regulations and procedures governing student placement in the composition-course sequence are summarized under Placement into English and Mathematics Courses (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/academicinformation/placementintoenglishandmathematicscourses/>). Students should consult with the Director of Composition concerning applicability toward Objective 1 requirements of writing courses taken at other institutions.

### English Course Prerequisites and Standards

At least one semester of lower-division literature is prerequisite for 3000 and 4000-level literature courses. To enroll in a 4000-level course, students must have junior or senior standing. To graduate as an English major or with an English minor, a student must maintain at least a 2.25 grade point average in courses within the English curriculum. Some courses may have additional prerequisites.

## Accelerated English BA/MA Overview

The Department of English and Philosophy offers an accelerated BA/MA program for its most talented undergraduates in the English BA program (Literary Option). Graduates will receive separate BA and MA degrees, as noted on their transcripts. The program is designed to be completed in five years of full-time study, with students taking some 5500-level electives in their fourth year along with their undergraduate coursework, and taking 6600-level courses in their fifth and final year.

### Admission Requirements

Declared English majors (Literary Option) may apply to the program after having successfully completed 75 credits at the undergraduate level. Applications for admission must be made to the English Graduate Program, and students must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be considered for admission:

1. Undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or better, with a GPA of 3.7 or better in ENGL courses;
2. Writing sample of 10 pages; and
3. 1-page statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional goals and interest in the program.

### Suggested Preparatory Courses

Applicants to the combined BA/MA should plan on having completed the following courses before applying: ENGL 2211 and ENGL 3311.

### General Requirements

The Master of Arts in English requires a minimum of 30 semester credits in courses approved by the Department of English. Students must take at least 18 of these credits in courses at the 6600-level or higher.

For the BA/MA program, students will fulfill these credit requirements through the following option:

M.A. Paper: The student completes 30 credits, including at least 18 credits at the 6600-level, and completes a 3-credit final M.A. Paper, a revised paper based on work done in a course completed as part of the M.A. program, which must be submitted with a cover letter, CV, and statement describing the rationale for choosing the paper and the revision process. Up to 3 credits of portfolio work may count toward the 6600-level requirement.

All students must maintain a satisfactory record of scholarship upon reaching classified graduate student status. Three grades below B- during the student's graduate work (i.e., in courses at the 5500-level and above) will automatically disqualify a student from continuing in the MA portion of the program.

### Foreign Language Requirement

BA/MA students must also demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language and may do so in the following ways:

1. By demonstrating that they have obtained an intermediate level of competence in a foreign language, equal to completing the second sophomore-level (2200-level) course with a grade of B or better, during the coursework for the BA. Students may demonstrate this proficiency in one of two ways:
  - a. By completing all foreign language coursework (at the 2200-level or above) with an average grade of B or better, and with an interval of no longer than four years between the conclusion of the last undergraduate language class and the beginning of graduate study in English at Idaho State University.
  - b. By passing the CLEP exam and earning credit for a 2200 course or by passing a language test from an approved site such as the BYU Foreign Language Achievement Testing Service (FLATS). OR
2. By having completed a major or a minor in a foreign language, as verified by the ISU transcript. OR

3. By having a first language other than English.

## Philosophy Program

The Philosophy Program offers courses on the history of philosophy, philosophical issues, and the cognitive skills required in philosophy. These offer students a deeper understanding of our past and our place in the world, as well as helping them to develop analytic and writing skills that are valuable in all disciplines. Students take either Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1101) or Introduction to Ethics (PHIL 1103) to partially meet Objective 4 of the General Education Requirements. The Philosophy Program offers a bachelor's degree and a minor to our undergraduate students. After graduation, philosophy students are well prepared to enter law school or graduate degree programs, or to pursue careers that require strong analytical and writing skills.

### Mission and Goals

The Philosophy Program provides students pursuing a liberal arts education training in the history of philosophy, philosophical issues, and the analytic skills required in philosophy. This training will provide students with strong analytical and writing skills, the ability to read philosophical texts critically, the ability to formulate and defend philosophical positions, and a grasp of the historical context and broader implications of philosophical positions.

### Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in Philosophy (all tracks)

1. Explain in clear, well-organized prose major questions, themes, positions, and arguments in philosophy, both historical and contemporary.
2. Engage critically with philosophical texts.
3. Compare and contrast major positions and arguments in philosophy, both historical and contemporary.
4. Critically evaluate major positions and arguments in philosophy, both historical and contemporary.
5. Formulate clear and substantive views on philosophical topics.
6. Defend your views with cogent reasoning.
7. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your own views and those opposing them.
8. Identify the broader philosophical implications of your own views, as well as their place within the larger historical and intellectual context.

**English and Philosophy Faculty (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/artsandletters/englishandphilosophy/faculty/>)**

**English Courses (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/engl/>)**

**Course Learning Outcomes (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/courselearningoutcomes/engl/>)**

**Philosophy Courses (<https://coursecat.isu.edu/undergraduate/allcourses/phil/>)**