

1. What large questions does your discipline attempt to answer?

English majors study language and literature from the medieval period to the present and learn how it has developed, how it has been deployed, and how it has been evaluated. Literature courses teach students to understand and describe the major themes, forms, styles, and theories associated with literature written in English. Majors will consider the nature and sources of aesthetic pleasure, and discuss many of the great questions that have occupied authors for centuries: conflicts between society and the individual, nature and nurture, city and country life; belief in a supernatural ruling force; the nature of perception; the impact of cultural forces on the individual.

2. What are the department's entry requirements to become an English major?

Enjoying reading for pleasure and intellectual curiosity.

3. Does the coursework involve mostly lecture, lab work, field experience, team projects, research and/or writing or some combination of these?

Most coursework is a mix of lecture and discussion. All English classes require a great deal of formal and informal writing (15-20 pp. per semester), some group projects and a modicum of library research.

4. What types of programs, minors, and/or electives have students combined this major with?

Education, Performing Arts, Drama, African American Studies, History, Philosophy are all common (and useful) minors or double majors.

5. What kinds of skills, abilities, personal qualities and interests should a student considering this field have?

Students should have aptitude and interest in close reading and literary analysis as well as a desire to improve their ability to communicate effectively in both oral and written forms. Genuine interest in drama and writing (creative, scholarly, critical) are also helpful.

6. Are there any courses or previous experiences that would help a student to determine whether to major in this field? What courses or experiences would you recommend for a student interested in further assessing this as a possible option?

Success in high school literature courses and a student's interest in exercising one's emotional, intellectual, and imaginative powers and in expressing the results in writing are prerequisites for considering an English major. Students already at the University of Hartford might take English 140 (an introduction to literary study) or English 226W (the sophomore seminar) to see if they enjoy studying literature in this department.

7. What opportunities exist, if any, for students to gain experience in your field of study – ie: internships?

The department offers an internship for editors of *Aerie*, our in-house literary journal. Otherwise, internship opportunities are somewhat limited in terms of English study itself. Still, students majoring in English are well-positioned to obtain internships in technical writing, museum work, journalism, teaching/education, advertising, and a host of other fields that require workers to communicate clearly and effectively.

8. What do you see as possible career options should I major in your field of study?

Though English prepares students to become secondary and/or postsecondary English or Language Arts teachers, it is not a vocational major. Of course, students can use the skills they develop in English courses to pursue almost any career, though those pursuits may

require graduate or professional training. Some examples of non-teaching careers that English majors have pursued include: business, museum work, law, librarianship, politics, advertising, technical writing, public relations, and journalism.

9. What have recent graduates in your major gone on to do?

See above.

10. What advice would you give a first-year (undecided) student considering this field as a possible major?

Take a few English courses to see if you find the teaching methods and course requirements stimulating and enjoyable. Talk to professors and fellow students to learn more about the department. If you seek a major that offers superior training in critical thinking and writing (skills that are readily transferable to a host of careers), English is an excellent choice.