



UC Berkeley

English/Literature

English, B.A.

Major Description

The Department of English offers courses in literature, language and writing. The courses in literature have many different focuses: major authors, historical periods, genres, critical theories and methods, and cultural and multicultural studies. The major in English is designed to introduce you to the history of literature written in English, acquaint you with a variety of historical periods and geographical and cultural regions of English language and writing, create an awareness of methods and theories of literary and cultural analysis, and provide continued training in critical writing. Courses in language offer instruction in both the history and the structure of the English language. Writing courses offer training in both expository and creative writing.

Starting Your English/Literature Degree

Lower-Division Major Requirements in English/Literature

From UC's perspective, community college is where you begin working on the first two years of your bachelor's degree. This includes taking lower-division coursework specifically related to your field of study that may be applied toward graduation in your major.

Listed below are the lower-division requirements for **English, B.A.** that may be satisfied with approved community college courses unless otherwise noted. To find out which of these requirements are shared by other UC campuses, see the UC Statewide Transfer Preparation Path in English/Literature.

- Literature in English Through Milton
- Literature in English Late 17th Through Mid-19th Century (incorporates British and American literature)
- Literature in English Mid-19th Through the 20th Century (incorporates British and American literature)
- Shakespeare

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

All of these requirements do not necessarily have to be completed **before** you transfer. See the next section of this path for what you must do to be competitive for admission.

FIND YOUR COURSES

Every course at your community college that can be used to meet any of the lower-division major requirements is listed at www.assist.org

UC Berkeley English/Literature

Becoming Competitive for Admission to English/Literature

Selection Requirements

Important information on selection requirements for admission to the major, including what this campus advises applicants to complete, and by when, is outlined below. It is important to note that meeting these requirements does not necessarily guarantee admission to the campus or major. The stronger your major preparation, the more competitive you will be.

- You are advised to complete as many lower-division major-preparation courses as possible prior to transfer to be ready for upper-division coursework and to move efficiently toward graduation after transfer.
- In general, completion of the College of Letters and Science requirements (Reading and Composition, Quantitative Reasoning and Foreign Language) or IGETC, plus strength of academic preparation and GPA are the primary selection criteria for admission.

Satisfying General Education in English/Literature

General Education Requirements

While all UC campuses urge you to focus on your lower-division major requirements while in community college, it is important to remember that general education (GE), or “breadth,” requirements for your bachelor’s degree may also be met with approved community college courses. In fact, some majors require completion of lower-division GE coursework as part of your preparation prior to transfer. The good news is you may be able to double-count some of your lower-division major coursework for related GE requirements.

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) is a series of courses at California community colleges that students may complete to satisfy GE requirements. Certain students, however, may not be well served by following this GE option. Specific information about satisfying GE requirements as an English/Literature major is listed below.

- You **must** satisfy GE/breadth requirements with either IGETC or the College of Letters and Science requirements (Reading and Composition, Quantitative Reasoning and Foreign Language) by the end of the spring term preceding fall enrollment.

Related Majors

Preparation for the following majors may be similar to the English major described above (consult the campus catalog and www.assist.org).

- Comparative Literature, B.A.
- Ethnic Studies, B.A.
- Linguistics, B.A.
- Rhetoric, B.A.