



# UC Santa Barbara

## English/Literature

### English, B.A.

## Major Description

The English Department at UC Santa Barbara offers students the opportunity to study all kinds of literatures written in English. Students study the complex interactions between literature, culture and history. At the heart of literary study lies the simple yet striking recognition that language is both a technology of thought and a constituent of human reality. The major in English transforms this recognition into a program of study that develops the critical skills required to negotiate complicated literary and cultural texts. In studying English, you learn how to think independently, you are trained to read a variety of literary and cultural works from across centuries and continents, to write proficiently and to make lively arguments, and you learn about how the past informs the present. As a result, you learn to become a “keeper” of past works and present cultures, and you will leave college thinking and feeling more deeply about life and how to live it. The English Department offers students the opportunity to specialize in one of three areas: American Culture, Early Modern Studies and Literature and the Culture of Information.

## 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.

- Introduction to Literature
- Introduction to Shakespeare
- One optional lower-division English course may be counted toward the elective requirement for the major (may be satisfied with an upper-division course at UCSB after transfer)

#### !!! 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](http://www.assist.org)

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- One of the following: year-two level of any transferable foreign language courses offered at UCSB (**strongly** recommended) or year-one level of any transferrable foreign language courses offered at UCSB plus completion of three upper-division foreign literature in translation courses after transfer to UCSB, to be selected in consultation with departmental adviser. (Other foreign languages may be considered by petition.)

## Becoming Competitive for Admission to English/Literature

### Selection Requirements

Important information on selection requirements for admission to the major 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.

- Although completion of all lower-division major-preparation courses is not an admissions requirement, completion, or near completion, of these courses will help you to move more efficiently toward graduation after transfer.

## 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 are advised to satisfy GE requirements with IGETC.

## Related Majors

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

- Comparative Literature, B.A.
- Literature, B.A. (in the College of Creative Studies)