



UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY

Established in 1857

English

The English program develops sound technical and creative writing skills and prepares students for teaching English in the elementary and secondary schools or for graduate study in literature or professional disciplines such as law and medicine. In addition, it serves to polish the skills necessary for careers in print and broadcast journalism.

Good written communication skills are vitally important to any professional person. Literature, too, is basic to an understanding of culture. Accordingly, many students who contemplate professional careers seek an English major or minor.

Major Courses

ENG 125: Intro to Literature

ENG 209: American Lit I

ENG 210: American Lit II

ENG 211: English Lit I

ENG 212: English Lit II

ENG 330: Shakespeare

The major in English requires at least 33 hours — six required courses and five electives. A senior thesis is also required and may be developed out of one or more courses in the major or produced through a Special Topics course at the 450 level. The minor in English requires 21 hours — four required courses and three electives.

Minor Courses

ENG 209: American Lit I

ENG 210: American Lit II

ENG 211: English Lit I

ENG 212: English Lit II

Scholarships

Some of Upper Iowa University's most prestigious and most generously endowed scholarships are reserved for the English Department. These include the Louise Herring Scholarship, the Grace Meyer Scholarship, and the Irene Humphrey Anderson Scholarship, which among them accounted for over \$10,000 in financial aid to Upper Iowa English majors. All scholarships are competitive within the Department.

Senior Thesis

The English major does not require an internship, but English majors are expected to present a Senior Thesis to the faculty as a prerequisite to graduation. Students majoring in English in conjunction with Upper Iowa's Teacher Education Program will complete a student teaching regimen within the Division of Education, and for these students, the thesis will relate to the student teaching experience. For students contemplating graduate study, the thesis may be a single critical evaluation of a significant body of work, a series of shorter essays evaluating several works from a single critical perspective, or a creative effort. Some recent thesis titles included the following:

- **Quentin McReynolds**
As It Is: a collection of personal essays
- **August Madson**
Upper Iowa University Vignettes, 1920-1999: an oral history of intercollegiate athletics at Upper Iowa
- **Jessica Powell**
African American Literature, Sophomore English: two-week unit of African American literature in a 10th grade English class
- **Craig Bucknell**
Scholastic Preparation for the College Experience with Advanced Placement U.S. History: an analysis of The College Board's Advanced Placement Program in U.S. History

Special Programs

Study Abroad

Study abroad is available to English students. English Department faculty frequently lead student groups to such European destinations as London, Paris, Seville, and Rome during Upper Iowa's Interim term.

Special Programs within the U.S.

The English Department sponsors day and weekend excursions to Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul to attend professional performances of classic American drama or museum exhibitions which tie into subjects being studied in class.

Faculty

Shirley Clapp,
Instructor in ESL

B.A., M.A. University of Northern Iowa

Sioux Maurer,
Instructor in English and ESL

B.A. St. Thomas Aquinas
M.A. Seton Hall University

Dr. Douglas J. McReynolds,
Bissell Professor of English

B.A., M.A. University of Missouri
Ph.D. University of Denver

Dr. Nick Serra
Associate Professor of English

B.A. Notre Dame University
M.A. Drake University
Ph.D. SUNY-Binghamton

Kathy Thomas,
Instructor in Developmental English and ESL

B.A. Upper Iowa University

Career Opportunities

The English major prepares its students for a wide variety of careers upon graduation:

- **Edgardo Baez** teaches English to Spanish-speaking children in Puerto Rico
- **Quentin McReynolds** is a freelance writer in Raleigh, North Carolina
- **Kersten Shepard** is Dean of the Faculty of Hamilton College in Des Moines, Iowa
- **Helen Scherbring** is the Economic Development Director for Clayton County, Iowa
- **Denise Lamphier** is the Director of Publications at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa

It can also serve as excellent preparation for graduate school. Some of the programs chosen by our graduates include:

- **Darla Huck**, Ph.D. in Communications — Iowa State University
- **Denise Lamphier**, M.A. in Communications — University of Iowa

Activities & Resources

Some English majors choose to work in the University's Learning Center, where they can earn money tutoring students whose English skills require remediation. Other English majors earn money writing for the University newspaper, *The Collegian*, and some even write freelance articles for the commercial newspapers of Fayette County.



Office of Admissions

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