If reading or writing is your strongest skill and greatest pleasure, consider what Wichita State University’s Department of English can provide.

We offer three, 33-hour bachelor’s degree programs: literature; creative writing; and teaching secondary English. Each of the programs requires you take core literature courses which provide background in the great works that have shaped the western literary tradition; give a basic understanding of the craft of poetry, drama and fiction; and introduce the essentials of the language used to transmit the experience of the literary imagination. Mastery of the core courses in each of the tracks will give you the confidence you need in approaching literary works and will develop your skills in analysis and writing. A faculty advisor will help you design the electives you want to build into your major to suit your career objectives and intellectual interests.

Options within the department include a wide range of courses in British and American literature, film and linguistics, and in the craft of writing fiction, poetry and nonfiction. The 33-hour major in literature or creative writing is designed to allow students to double major in a related program, such as history, philosophy, communication or a foreign language. It will give you a background in the type of writing and thinking that marks the well-rounded, classically educated student equipped with the communications skills employers value and an understanding and appreciation for literature.

The literature track consists of a 21-hour core, including one genre course, historical surveys of world, British and American literature, and 12 hours of elective courses in topics like African-American literature, the major plays of Shakespeare or studies in comparative literature.

The creative writing program includes a 15-hour core of classes; six hours in another area of emphasis, such as literature or linguistics and—the heart of the writing major—at least 12 hours of workshops in the student’s chosen genre—fiction, poetry, playwriting or nonfiction.

Writing students may also study in special one-month tutorials with visiting distinguished writers—novelists, short story writers and poets—who are nationally acclaimed for their publications. The English teaching major is a 33-hour program designed to meet the State of Kansas licensure requirements to teach at the middle and secondary level. It requires a 12-hour core in literature and includes further work in composition, linguistics, literature and related fields, as well as requirements of the College of Education.

Admission
When you choose to study English, you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in the English department who will help you develop your program of study. If you are still deciding on a major when you start at Wichita State, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.

Related Opportunities
The English degree is a versatile liberal arts program. Medical and law schools, for example, recognize the value of an English degree as a background for professional training. If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board or Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honorary.

General Education Program Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:
Major Requirements

Requirements for all English majors

- Origins of Western Literature OR World Literature I
- The Nature of Poetry, The Nature of Drama OR The Nature of Fiction

Additional Requirements for English Language and Literature Majors

- Major British Writers I and II
- Major American Writers I and II
- Senior Seminar
- Plus, four additional courses in English, including two at the 500 level or above

Additional Requirements for Creative Writing Majors

- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Introduction to English Linguistics
- Plus, four courses selected from the following: Fiction Writing; Poetry Writing; Fiction Workshop; Poetry Workshop; Creative Nonfiction Writing; Playwriting I and II; Writer’s Tutorial: Prose Fiction and Writer’s Tutorial: Poetry
- Plus, two upper-division courses from any emphasis within English

Additional Requirements for Students Planning to Teach English in Secondary Schools

- Introduction to English Linguistics
- History of the English Language
- Theory and Practice in Composition
- Major Plays of Shakespeare OR Studies in Shakespeare
- Major American Writers I and II
- Major British Writers I and II
- African-American Literature OR American Multicultural Literature
- Plus, requirements in the College of Education

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the LAS General Education requirements.

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

For more information on English & Creative Writing at WSU visit wichita.edu/English or call (316) 978-3130.