THE PROGRAM
Gonzaga University’s rigorous English curriculum stimulates personal and intellectual growth. Founded on solid introductory writing and literature courses and covering a variety of genres, the English major offers two areas of emphasis: a major with a focus in literature and one with a Writing Concentration.

The 36-credit B.A. in English focuses on literature and requires students to take classes in four broad periods of British and American literature:
- British Literature Pre-1660
- American Literature Pre-1900
- British Literature Post-1660
- American Literature Post-1900

Students may choose from numerous electives to complete their degree. Examples include Studies in the Novel, Studies in Women Writers, Creative Writing, Post-Colonial Literature, and Modern Theories of Literature and Criticism. In their senior year, English majors take the Senior Seminar, a focused, in-depth study of a literary topic. Past topics have included Tudor-Stuart Drama; Psychoanalysis, Sexuality, & Gender; and American Visionary Literature. The seminar familiarizes students with the critical conversation surrounding its topic, prepares them to engage in this and similar conversations, and enters them into this conversation by creating a senior project: a well-informed, well-argued, research-based critical study.

THE PASSION
Through the study of literature, students analyze the world, the human condition, and perhaps most profoundly, their own experience. By examining works from all genres and developing excellent written communication skills, students learn to contemplate culture, to think independently, to analyze logically, and to appreciate the beauty in language and literature. In a world where technical abilities quickly become obsolete, the study of literature teaches the expressive and analytical skills necessary for professional success and sound philosophical judgments.

The 39-credit Writing Concentration English major requires students to sample classes from the literary periods above, but the rest of their curriculum consists of various writing courses of their choice. Examples include Poetry Writing, Fiction Writing, Research and Writing, Creative Nonfiction, and Literary Journalism. In their senior year, Writing Concentration English majors complete a senior project approved by and in coordination with the English faculty. Examples of projects are a book of short stories, a collection of essays, or a research-based thesis.

Students with other academic interests may double-major or fulfill minors in other fields. English majors often obtain teacher certification from the School of Education, complete a Pre-Law or Pre-Medicine track, or add an additional major such as history, journalism, or theatre arts. Students majoring in any field may minor in English (21 credits) to enhance their language skills.

Outside of the classroom, the department supports student contributions to Reflection, the campus literary magazine, and The Gonzaga Bulletin, GU’s weekly newspaper. The English Department also hosts the Gonzaga University Visiting Writers Series, which brings writers of international significance to campus. Recent visitors have included three former U.S. Poet Laureates: Natasha Trethewey, Robert Hass, and Robert Pinsky. Other distinguished writers have included Jimmy Santiago Baca, Denis Johnson, Carolyn Forche, Bharati Mukherjee, Joy Harjo, Li-Young Lee, Jess Walter, and Sherman Alexie. The English Department sponsors several writing awards such as the Michael and Gail Gurian Writing Awards and the Franz and Ann Schneider Essay Contest.

Gonzaga’s English Department recommends that high school students planning to pursue an English major take regular and advanced high school courses with an emphasis on developing strong writing, reading, and analytical skills. The Department does not believe that taking the first-year college composition course in a high school setting is the best preparation for college writing and encourages students to take this course at Gonzaga during their freshman year.
OUTCOMES

One-third to one-half of graduating seniors plan to do graduate work. The English Department has an outstanding reputation for its undergraduate preparation of Ph.D.’s in English, M.F.A.’s in creative writing, and related fields. Department graduates have entered prestigious graduate programs and now hold academic positions in various universities across the country.

Many English majors also complete elementary or secondary education certification programs and become teachers. Interested students may apply to work in the Gonzaga University Writing Center, which is directed by English faculty member, Dr. John Eliason. Some Institutional and Federal Work-Study funding is available for Writing Center staff. Additionally, students may volunteer or receive credit for working there. In recent years, a grant has also been secured to hire junior and senior English majors as tutors.

Recent Gonzaga English graduates have attended the following graduate programs:

**Law Schools**
- Georgetown University
- Lewis and Clark College
- Seattle University
- Temple University
- University of Hawaii
- University of Miami
- University of San Diego
- University of Washington

**Master of Fine Arts Programs**
- Arizona State University
- Eastern Washington University
- Loyola Marymount University
- Naropa University
- University of Idaho
- University of Montana
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Graduate Studies in English**
- Louisiana State University
- Purdue University
- University of Chicago
- University of Denver
- University of Glasgow
- University of Massachusetts
- University of North Carolina
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin
- Washington State University

Recent Gonzaga English graduates have also found employment in a variety of fields, which include:

- Advertising
- Armed Forces
- College Admissions
- Copy Editing
- Government
- Insurance
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Journalism
- Marketing
- Medicine
- Public Relations
- Publication Design
- Teach for America
- Teaching
- Teaching ESL Abroad
- Theatrical Design
- Video Production
THE PEOPLE

Over the past 20 years, English faculty members have earned Fulbright Awards, grants from agencies such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and several teaching and scholarship awards.

Faculty members consistently publish poetry, fiction, and literary criticism; present scholarly papers at regional and national scholarly conferences; participate in professional organizations; and write for local publications.

With their focus primarily on teaching, however, the English faculty at Gonzaga place a high priority on assisting students with classroom concerns and long-range career plans. All faculty members have posted office hours when students can set appointments or drop by with their questions or concerns.

Sample of published works by Gonzaga English professors:


Faculty Contacts and Specialties:

Chase Bollig | Ph.D., Ohio State University | rhetoric and composition | bollig@gonzaga.edu

Daniel Butterworth | Ph.D., University of North Carolina | contemporary literature, Romantic literature, creative writing | butterworth@gu.gonzaga.edu

Ann Ciasullo | Ph.D., University of Kentucky | 20th Century American literature, feminist theory, women writers, popular culture and cultural studies, literary theory | ciasullo@gonzaga.edu

Meagan Ciesla | Ph.D., University of Missouri | fiction writing | ciesla@gonzaga.edu

Elizabeth Cooley | Ph.D., University of North Carolina | 20th Century British and American literature | cooley@gu.gonzaga.edu

Brian Cooney | Ph.D., University of South Carolina | British Romanticism | cooney@gu.gonzaga.edu

Heather Easterling Ritchie | Ph.D., University of Washington | Early Modern drama, representation of Early Modern gender and culture in literature | easterling@gonzaga.edu

John Eliason | Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno | Director of Composition and the Writing Center | writing program administration, writing pedagogy, writing centers, Writing Across the Curriculum | eliason@gonzaga.edu

Patsy Fowler | Ph.D., Auburn University | Director of Women’s & Gender Studies | Restoration & 18th Century British literature, women’s studies, and the development of the novel | fowlerp2@gonzaga.edu

Tod Marshall | Ph.D., University of Kansas | Powers Chair | Director of Writing Concentration | poetry, Modernism, contemporary literature, creative writing | marshall@gonzaga.edu
Jessica Maucione | Ph.D., Washington State University | contemporary American literature and ethnic studies | maucione@gonzaga.edu

Jeffrey Miller | Ph.D., University of Cincinnati | Dept. Chair | 19th Century American literature | millerj3@gonzaga.edu

Michael Pringle | Ph.D., Washington State University | early American literature | pringle@gonzaga.edu

Ingrid Ranum | Ph.D., Washington State University | Victorian literature | ranum@gonzaga.edu

Patricia Terry | Ph.D., University of North Carolina | Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences | 20th Century American literature, composition and rhetoric | terry@gonzaga.edu

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