

# Mission, Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: AY 2018-2019

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<b>School</b>	School of Arts and Sciences
<b>Department</b>	English
<b>Program</b>	English BA
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<b>Date Submitted</b>	December 6, 2018

## I. State Program Mission

### Mission

The Department of English offers students opportunities to enrich their lives with courses in literature, writing, rhetoric, language, and journalism.

### Mission Statement

We aim to serve the needs of all students by developing their abilities to write for college, for professional work, and for their lives as citizens, and by preparing them to understand and to write on academic topics in their major disciplines.

Faculty scholarship is an integral part of the English department mission, and we are committed to fostering a collegial, supportive, and collaborative intellectual environment. Students are best served by faculty who are actively contributing to the production and advancement of knowledge, and thus can guide students in their coursework and mentor them in their own research aspirations in directions that are relevant to the present and the future.

This overall mission takes concrete form through our majors in English and Journalism; through our minors in English, Creative Writing, and Journalism; through our courses that support the college's general education requirements; and through the Writing Program, which serves the entire campus with first-year and junior-year writing courses, with Writing Across the Curriculum, and with the Writing Center. In what follows we define our mission more specifically in each of these areas.

#### BA in ENGLISH

##### Literature

We are committed to fostering our students' capacity for deep reading and to increasing their understanding of the power and beauty of literary works. We enable students to analyze and critique literature with insight and interpretive power and to communicate their ideas about literature effectively in writing. We want our students to recognize how literature illuminates the human condition, expands their capacity for sympathy, and inspires them to respond significantly and powerfully to their local and global communities.

##### Writing, Rhetoric, and Language

###### Writing

We encourage and teach students to develop expressive techniques and abilities with which to succeed in creative, professional, and civic writing. We provide them the means to serve as a voice for themselves, their community, and humankind.

###### Rhetoric

Through study of the uses and effects of language in various contexts and historical periods, we are committed to helping students gain a rhetorical awareness of how writers and speakers have structured their written and spoken discourse to reflect their goals and beliefs. Through guided practice, we assist students in developing rhetorical capabilities that will enable them to influence debate in the various communities that they will participate in throughout their academic, professional, and civic lives.

###### Language

We teach students sociolinguistic theory and the history of English to help them explore where their own language fits in the complex linguistic landscape of the United States and beyond.

#### ENGLISH MINOR

The goals of the English minor are the same as those articulated for the major, designed to encourage students who have an interest in literature and language studies, but adjusted to meet the needs of students who are majoring in another subject.

## II. List Program Goals (PGs) and Program Level Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Program Goal	Program Student Learning Outcomes
<p>Goal.1 Discipline-specific Knowledge and Discourse: Students will speak and write effectively, addressing complex issues in the language of the chosen field of study.</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1 Students will display a working knowledge of terms and concepts used in the analysis of a variety of literary genres.</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.2 Students will articulate basic rhetorical principles in the arts of invention, arrangement, and style.</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.3 Students will develop a working approach to language difference including multiple Englishes and multilingual/translingual perspectives.</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.4 Students will recognize various critical and theoretical lenses and apply them to specific works to explore how their meaning shifts from these difference perspectives.</p>
	<p>Outcome 1.5 Students will examine a variety of genres to determine what they indicate about writing, rhetoric, and the climate of cultural production.</p>
<p>Goal.2 Critical Reading: Students will understand and articulate insights about complex texts, both primary and secondary, including literature, criticism, and various genres of non-fiction.</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1 Students will be able to undertake close reading of a literary work, with particular emphasis on the relationship between parts and wholes and between form and meaning.</p>
	<p>Outcome 2.2 Students will be able to apply their understanding of rhetoric, writing, and language to the analysis and interpretation of discourse.</p>
	<p>Outcome 2.3 Students will be able to apply their understanding of rhetoric, writing, and language to the analysis and interpretation of discourse.</p>
<p>Goal.3 Writing: Students will produce a work in an appropriate genre for a chosen emphasis and at an appropriate level: literary criticism, creative writing, rhetorical or linguistic analysis.</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1 Students will engage in written reflection on the critical assumptions that inform their own and others' interpretation of literary works.</p>

Program Goal	Program Student Learning Outcomes
	<p>Outcome 3.2 Students will apply their understanding of rhetoric, writing, and language to their own writing for a variety of audiences and purpose</p>
	<p>Outcome 3.3 Students will create and support an original thesis, showing an ability to make independent connections between primary and secondary source material in the field of study.</p>
<p>Goal.4 Research Activities: Students will engage in authentic research, including finding and evaluating both primary and secondary sources.</p>	<p>Outcome 4.1 Students will construct a literary argument using secondary sources (in particular, discipline-specific databases and archives) and employing MLA style.</p>
	<p>Outcome 4.2 Students will find and incorporate secondary sources from refereed publications in the development of one's own interpretation of a literary work.</p>
	<p>Outcome 4.3 Students will make use of modern research tools, and incorporate these sources skillfully and with proper documentation, as evidence of their own writing.</p>