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B.A. in English

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Major Information

The Department of English offers courses in English and American literature and in creative and professional writing. English courses are open to all students, regardless of their major.

The chief purpose of English courses is to enable you to analyze, contextualize, and evaluate significant literature and other writing in the English language, as well as to develop your ability to read, write, and speak English as effectively as possible. We take pride in the success our graduates have achieved in publishing, education, marketing, law – indeed, in virtually every major career area.

Careers in English

Our rigorous training in critical thinking, writing, reading, and research skills prepares English majors to meet and conquer any professional, advanced educational, managerial, or social problem that is presented in their chosen field.

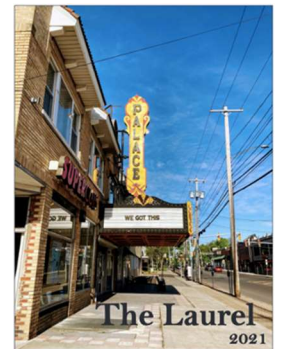
Education and graduate school are certainly paths taken by a number of our graduates, but our graduates also become leaders in all kinds of fields and industries.

One recent graduate is a web-developer for Sesame Street English; another is an Inbound Marketing Specialist at a regional marketing agency; another is the communications coordinator for all the Jesuit schools of D.C.; one is a successful stand-up comedian and another is a writer of high-profile comic books; another is a manager for a tech start-up, while many others enjoy careers in sales, marketing, management, advocacy, nonprofit work and other careers where critical thinking, research and writing are valued.

Student Activities

Students who like to write and who want to use their ability to communicate will find plenty of opportunities at St. Bonaventure.

Our literary magazine, *The Laurel*, has been published continuously since its first issue in 1899. The Department of English also advises Chattertons, our spoken word poetry club, which organizes performances and regularly brings world-renowned poets to campus.



English majors also work on the campus radio station WSBU FM; on the campus weekly newspaper, *The Bona Ventura*; and on the *Bonadieu*, the campus yearbook.

Our Faculty

Our award-winning faculty work directly with students in small classroom settings designed for one-on-one interaction. Experts in their fields, faculty members share their expertise with students regularly outside of the classroom in meetings and department events.

In recent years, English faculty have won awards from the Fulbright Scholars Program, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Llamda Literary Society, and elsewhere.

Members of the English faculty regularly present their research at top universities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.



B.A. in English

What Our Students Have to Say

“My time in the St. Bonaventure English department allowed me to really grow as both a writer and a reader. The professors are passionate about the literature they teach, and their enthusiasm was always transferred to me. They brought insight to stories that I had not seen, and I am excited to pass along to my own English class. Everything I learned in their classrooms has prepared me for my career as an English teacher.”

— Maria Ragonese, Class of 2020

“When I first started at St. Bonaventure University, I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do and I switched majors a few times. It was hard when everyone told me to pursue a career in something I was not interested or particularly good in. Thankfully, in my second semester of my freshman year, I took an English class with Dr. Ellis and instantly changed my major to English. The English Department challenged me to think critically and push myself. My writing and analytical skills have improved immensely, as well as my ability to participate in discussion and solve problems. Every English class I took was engaging and the faculty were always there to provide assistance or advice. With my English degree, I landed a job working in a library right after graduating and was accepted into a Master’s Program in Information and Library Science. I would not change a thing about my time at Bona’s as an English major, and I hope future students experience the same.”

— Ashley Gray, Class of 2019

“The English Department at St. Bonaventure not only improved my mechanical skill at writing, but also gave me the confidence and encouragement to put my work out there. My experiences with the St. Bonaventure English Department helped me turn a passion for writing into an actionable plan for the future, and I could not be more grateful.”

— Joseph Giglio, Class of 2019

“Even though I was an unconventional English major (having a second major in Computer Science), the

English Department made me feel welcome and at home. The classes that I was able to take while pursuing this degree not only expanded my knowledge of literature but also how to use different mediums to convey my ideas and analyses. Since graduating, this degree has set me apart from my fellow software engineers, proving that my abilities to communicate and analyze go beyond that of technical terminology. This has helped me to land contracts in the educational technology sector as a creator of English language learning software and games.”

— Ashley DeVento, Class of 2020

“There are not enough amazing things that I could say about the St. Bonaventure English Department. I was fortunate enough to be a part of a department where the faculty genuinely want what is best for you, and make you feel important and welcomed. I have gained so much knowledge and skills from my four years as a student in this department; I found my passion for literature through the diverse courses they offer. I am grateful that the department has such a vast range of classes to take that helped me become more open-minded and learn about different cultures.

As a recent graduate from St. Bonaventure, I am able to look back at my time spent with the English department. I am very thankful to have been able to work with the department over the years as a college student. I gained the confidence to pursue a career doing what I love, and I have them to thank for helping me along the way. The faculty, and the students in the department, have such magnetic personalities and really want to see everyone succeed to be lifelong learners and accepting individuals.”

— Calsey Bump, Class of 2020