



B.A. in English

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 understand, appreciate and evaluate the significant literature 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 law, education, business, indeed, in virtually every major career area.

Careers in English

Our rigorous training in critical writing, reading, and research skills prepares the English major to meet and conquer any industrial, advanced educational, managerial, or social problem that is presented in his or her chosen field.

Education and graduate school are certainly paths taken by a number of our graduates, but for the most part our graduates become leaders in all kinds of industries.

One recent graduate is a copywriter for Kohl's; 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 one of the hottest tech start-ups in the country, 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

Opportunities for students who like to write and who want to use their ability to communicate are not lacking at St. Bonaventure.

A 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.



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What Our Students Have to Say

“English students at SBU don’t just walk away with a list of literary facts and a set of language skills. They learn to logically and intelligently build on their knowledge. They learn to ask more complex and pressing questions. And, most importantly, they learn to take their highly developed skills and apply them to our world in a wonderful and socially relevant way.”

— Christopher Radey

“Being an English major at St. Bonaventure has been such a rewarding experience. Reading well, communicating effectively, writing coherently, and analyzing critically are just some of the measurable traits I have learned to hone and perfect, but the insight I have gained from my English courses has been immeasurable. The Department of English is full of intelligent, witty, and passionate people, and I’m so fortunate to be a part of it.”

— Matt Laurie

“I loved being an English major at SBU. The professors are not only experts in what they teach, but they are passionate about sharing their knowledge. It made me more enthusiastic about classes and allowed me to explore new ideas with their guidance.”

— Francesca DeCillo

“I loved everything about the English Department. Most of all it was the professors that I loved.”

— Hope Gardner

“The wide range of required and elective English classes allowed me to experience a survey of English literature while giving me the opportunity to explore the topics and areas that interest me the most. The relatively small class sizes made it possible for me to get to know my professors, who are genuinely caring people that helped and encouraged me.”

— Monica Edwards

“My favorite thing about being an English major is the incredible amount of knowledge I have gained. I absolutely love learning about the people and culture of different historical movements.”

— Cassie Fearing