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B.A. in English

www.sbu.edu/english • Dr. Megan Walsh, Chair • mwalsh@sbu.edu • (716) 375-2449

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. The department takes pride in the success its graduates have achieved in law, education, business, indeed, in virtually every major career area.

Careers in English

Trade and professional associations, manufacturing firms, financial consultants, transportation and insurance companies are among the organizations that employ St. Bonaventure English graduates. Government agencies, schools, museums, colleges, social and religious organizations have also provided positions for our graduates. In today's market, English majors don't just teach, nor is publishing the only place to use their verbal and rhetorical talents and training most effectively. In today's fast-paced world, communication is all-important, and that is what the St. Bonaventure English major does best. After rigorous training in critical writing and reading skills, the English major is prepared to meet and conquer any industrial, advanced educational, managerial, or social problem that is presented in his or her chosen field.

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. Recent distinctions have included a third-place finish behind Princeton and Harvard in the Society of Professional Journalists' 2002 Mark of

Excellence competition for the northeastern U.S. in the category of campus literary magazines appearing more than once a year. In the 2003 Mark of Excellence competition, *The Laurel* won first place.

English majors also work on the campus radio station WSBU FM, on the campus weekly newspaper, *The Bona Venture*, and on the *Bonadieu*, the campus yearbook. A number of



student and administrative organizations publish regular or occasional newsletters, and

there are always groups of kindred spirits like the English Club and the Writers' Bloc who exchange ideas, poems, and stories in less formal, but not less lively, ways. The English Department also organizes the Slam Poetry club, which regularly brings world-renowned poets to campus to share their work with students.



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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.

Here's what 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 English department 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