Major Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in English

Undergraduate majors in English are required to take 40 units (usually 10 courses) for a B.A. in English with an emphasis in either literature or creative writing.

ALL MAJORS must take three introductory courses, including at least two from the survey sequence:

• ENGL 261 English Literature to 1800
• ENGL 262 English Literature since 1800
• ENGL 263 American Literature

One introductory course may be from the genre sequence:

• ENGL 290 Cultural Studies: Theories and Methods
• ENGL 298 Introduction to the Genre of Fiction
• ENGL 299 Introduction to the Genre of Poetry

Students should take at least two introductory courses before enrolling in upper-division literature courses or upper-division creative writing workshops.

English majors emphasizing ENGLISH LITERATURE must take seven upper-division courses, including

• two courses in literature written before 1800
• one course in 19th-century literature
• one course in American literature
• two electives.

English majors emphasizing CREATIVE WRITING must take seven upper-division courses, including one introductory creative writing workshop in poetry

• ENGL 304 Introduction to Poetry Writing

And one introductory workshop in prose, from

• ENGL 303 Introduction to Fiction Writing, or
• ENGL 305 Introduction to Nonfiction Writing

The remaining upper-division courses must include

• one creative writing workshop at the 400-level
• one course in literature written before 1900
• one course in literature written after 1900
• one elective.

New program: All major students entering USC in Fall 2012 must complete ENGL 491 Senior Seminar in Literary Studies.

Old program: All major students entering USC before Fall 2012 are strongly encouraged to complete ENGL 491 Senior Seminar in Literary Studies.

ENGL 499 (2 units). The requirements above are based on courses of 4 units. We offer many innovative 2 unit courses numbered ENGL 499, and these may be combined to satisfy a 4 unit requirement. A 2-unit course in Chaucer, for example, might combine with a 2-unit course in Shakespeare, and thus satisfy the 4-unit requirement in early literature.