Why you belong here

Do you believe that critical thinking and the clear articulation of complex ideas are important to both your future career and the world around you? Does your interest in literature take you beyond the page into exploring the connections between classic texts and current issues? If so, then you belong in the English program at Chatham.

Our English program will challenge you to analyze texts of considerable difficulty within the frameworks of history and theory so you can successfully argue the interrelations between literary texts, literary history, and literary theory orally and in writing.

You will learn how authors imagine and express worlds and emotions, and how they fashion alternatives to reality that liberate the individual. You will work closely with a dedicated faculty as you develop your capacity for sophisticated yet clear expression, preparing you for professional or academic careers in areas such as literature, law, creative writing, and teaching.

What you can expect

At Chatham, you will enjoy small, intimate classes where you will work directly with a passionate faculty and fellow students who share your intellectual curiosity in the study of literary and cultural texts. You will also complete a capstone seminar. This seminar does two things: It integrates the knowledge that you’ve accumulated, and it allows you to channel that knowledge into a discipline-specific project under close faculty guidance.

In addition, you will be encouraged to present your academic and creative work at professional conferences through Sigma Tau Delta, the International Honor Society, and other organizations, helping you develop your professional identity as you prepare to move on to employment or graduate work.
what you will learn

When you major in English at Chatham, you will delve into the literary imagination and expression through the study of historical periods, genres, works, and authors. You will receive intensive training in writing and the close analysis of English, American, and world literary history and primary texts. Secondary education certification in English is available, as well.

Chatham University also offers students the opportunity to complete a rigorous program of study leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Creative Writing. In addition, highly qualified students may be admitted to the Integrated Degree Program, including the BFA/MFA in Creative Writing or to the BA/MA in teaching.

On campus you will have the opportunity to take an active role in other relevant Chatham experiences, including the student newspaper, a literary magazine, and an English honor society.

where it will take you

During your time at Chatham, you’ll be encouraged to take advantage of internship opportunities in order to acquire firsthand work experience directly related to your studies or career plans. Recent English majors have enjoyed internships at Pittsburgh Magazine, Pittsburgh Symphony, U.S. Department of Justice, McGraw-Hill Publishers, WAMO Radio, The White House, and Marvel Comics.

After graduation, your English degree will allow you the flexibility to pursue a wide range of graduate studies and career opportunities. The combination of skills you will develop in communication, research, critical thinking, and creativity, along with heightened knowledge and understanding of people and cultures, will serve as a strong foundation for whichever way you choose to make a difference in the world.

learn more

Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and comment on related blog articles by English Department faculty and students at chatham.edu/english.

“One of the great things about Chatham is how well seemingly unrelated subjects fit together. I often find myself reading a piece of literature for one class that was inspired by the same movement as a piece of music that I am singing for another. I appreciate how my professors are able to help me combine both of my passions to form one cohesive major.”

— Gina Sallinger, English and music interdepartmental major

chathamUniversity

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