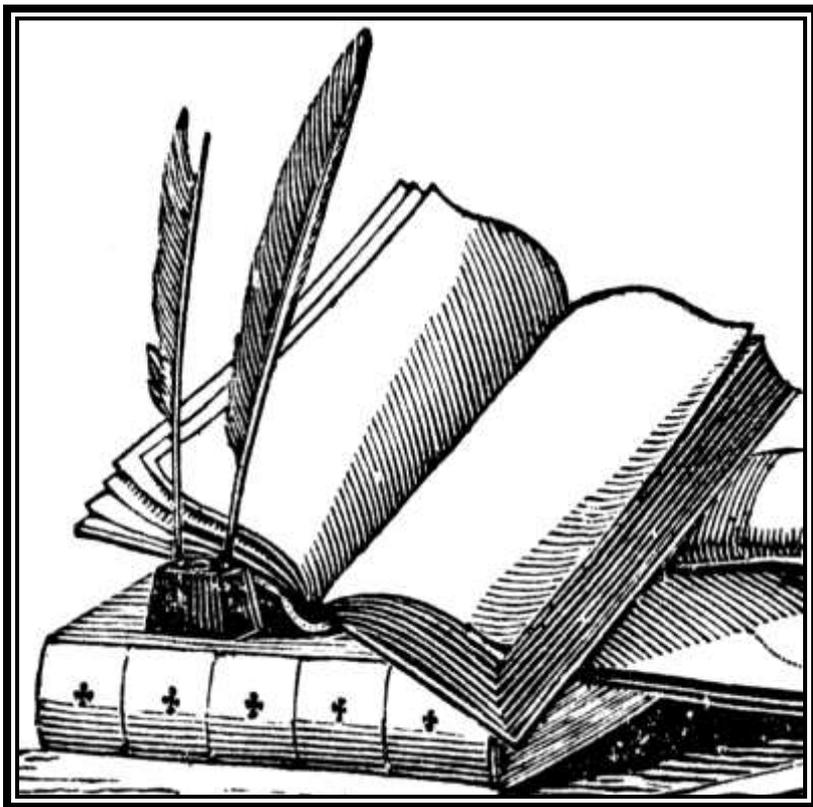


**Tufts University  
Department of English**



**Majors and Minors  
Handbook**

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**Department of English**  
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# ENGLISH MAJORS AND MINORS HANDBOOK

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## Program Overview

The Department of English offers a wide range of courses in British, American, and world literatures in English; film; literary theory; and creative writing. Though diverse, these offerings are unified by the study of textual production and the styles and practices of writing in English. Courses in the department examine literary works in their most illuminating contexts: historical, social, philosophical, and political. The department's courses in expository and creative writing enable students to refine their skills through reading, frequent writing assignments, and discussion.

The English department serves the interests of students who plan to become teachers or writers of literature, as well as those preparing for other professions that put a high premium on cultural analysis, effective writing, symbolic interpretation, or media studies. Among the fields our students frequently enter are law, diplomacy, journalism, public relations, publishing, teaching, and filmmaking. Students who have majored (or double-majored) in English are also seen as especially attractive candidates by medical, business, and law schools. Our courses are central to a liberal arts education, regardless of anticipated career, because they instill a mastery of critical thinking, linguistic analysis, and persuasive communication in a world that increasingly demands that we not only read but also read *through* the representations that we encounter.

## Learning Objectives

Our goal is to graduate students with effective oral communication skills who are also capable of producing effective, well-argued, well-reasoned, and stylistically engaging pieces of writing.

***Students graduating with a major in English will be able to:***

- Demonstrate fluency in the seminal historical, cultural and aesthetic elements in English language literature via their ability to identify and creatively use:
  - The historical contexts of influential American, British, and Anglophone world literature;
  - The intellectual programs, aesthetic strategies, and socio-political contexts within which English-language cultural producers have worked;
  - The variety of aesthetic standards that have shaped textual production over time and the ideological contexts that may inflect aesthetic judgments;
  - The distinctive characteristics of different genres and forms (poetry, novel, non-fiction prose, film, literary theory, etc.);
  - The distinctive contributions of the humanities to the ongoing debate about cultural values.
  
- Comment on the aesthetic, intellectual, and ideological complexity of seminal literary and cultural texts.
- Pose original questions, assert original opinions, and critically analyze the opinions and assertions of other scholars.
- Engage in research, rhetorical analysis and historical contextualization as part of a scholarly process to construct thoughtful and compelling arguments.
- Construct well-reasoned, stylistically engaging pieces of writing.
- Construct well-reasoned, stylistically engaging oral presentations.

- Initiate and complete an original creative project that reflects aesthetic, intellectual, and ideological complexity.

***Students graduating with a major in English will have developed:***

- An appreciation for the aesthetic, intellectual, and ideological complexity of literary and cultural texts;
- A capacity for critical thinking through immersion in close reading, rhetorical analysis, and historical contextualization;
- An ability to produce original questions for scholarly research or creative production and the skills necessary to carry that research, critical analysis, or creative project to completion with rigor and style.

***They will have learned:***

- The logical, linguistic, and rhetorical skills to construct a compelling and persuasive argument based on evidence provided by a text and the means to convey such arguments successfully in written and oral form;
- The historical contexts in which to locate important texts of American, British, and Anglophone world literature;
- The intellectual programs, aesthetic strategies, and socio-political contexts within which English-language cultural producers have worked;
- The variety of aesthetic standards that have shaped textual production over time and the ideological contexts that may inflect aesthetic judgments;
- The distinctive characteristics of different genres and forms (poetry, novel, non-fiction prose, film, literary theory, etc.);
- The distinctive contributions of the humanities to the ongoing debate about cultural values.

## Declaring a Major

Undergraduates in the school of Arts and Sciences must declare their major by April 1<sup>st</sup> of their sophomore year. (Students who are in their third semester in April may declare in the following fall.)

In order to declare a major in English, you must first find a full-time faculty member to act as your advisor. A good way to meet English Department faculty is by attending the English Department's Majors Luncheon, which is usually held the last week of February during Majors Week.

After you have found a faculty advisor:

1. Fill out the "Declaration of Major" form, available on the Student Life website  
(<https://students.tufts.edu/registrar/what-we-assist/major-and-minor-declaration>)
2. Meet with your new English advisor and have him or her sign your Declaration of Major form.
3. Return the signed form to the Student Services Desk, Dowling Hall. You are now officially an English major.
4. Make sure to inform your pre-major advisor of your declaration.

The Student Life website (<https://students.tufts.edu/>) has additional information on declaring your major, advising, academic deans, and more.

## Major Concentration Requirements

English majors are expected to work with their advisors to design a coherent but wide-ranging course of study. We encourage all students majoring in English to explore the full historical range of offerings; to investigate the spectrum of textual differences to be found in the study of Anglophone literatures, film, and oral traditions; and to include exposure to recent approaches in English studies, such as women's studies, literary theory, historical materialism, and cultural studies. With the help of their advisors, English majors should seek to create programs of study that expand their knowledge and challenge their preconceptions. Students should take survey courses early in their academic career in order to establish the necessary foundation for more advanced classes.

Students must take at least ten courses (above English 1, 2, 3, and 4) listed or cross-listed in the department as follows:

1. One survey course.
2. Two non-survey courses in American, British, or other Anglophone literature written before 1860, including at least one course in British literature. No more than one course used to fulfill this part of the requirement may be on Shakespeare.
3. Two non-survey courses in American, British, or Anglophone literature written after 1860.
4. Five remaining courses of the student's choice from the department's listings. A Senior Honors Thesis may count as two of these courses.

Please note the following guidelines when applying creative writing courses towards the major:

- Creative Writing courses are defined as courses numbered English 0005-0016.

- A maximum of two Creative Writing courses at the introductory level in each of the areas offered (fiction, poetry, and journalism) may be applied.
- "Writing Fiction: Intermediate" may be applied a maximum of two times.
- "Nonfiction Writing" and "Intermediate Journalism" may each count only once.
- "Writing Fiction: Advanced" may be applied a maximum of three times.
- There is no limit on the number of times "Forms of Poetry" may be applied.
- Any creative writing course (except for "Nonfiction Writing" and "Intermediate Journalism") may be repeated for credit and applied towards the major within the above parameters.
- English majors may count up to *five* creative writing courses (defined as courses numbered English 0005-0016) towards the major's required ten courses.

The following parameters also apply to the major in English:

- **Students must receive a grade of C- or higher in any course that they wish to count towards the fulfillment of English major requirements.**
- Only courses offered by the English Department or cross-listed with an English Department registration number can count for the English major. ExCollege courses may not be counted towards the major.
- No more than four transfer courses may be applied towards the major. These *must* be taken in an English department.
- The **English Major Concentration Check Sheet** (*available on the English Department website or from the Department Office*) must be submitted with the Academic Advising Report.

## Minor Concentration Requirements

The Minor in English requires students to take **six** courses in the Department. English 1, 2, 3, and 4 do *not* count towards the minor. The purpose of the minor is to allow students to experiment widely or to follow a particular interest with some concentration. Therefore each minor will be individual not only in content but also in concept. To that end, all students are expected to plan a coherent program of study that leads to breadth, pursues a specialized interest, or combines these two objectives. Whatever course of study they construct, students are encouraged to include at least one course numbered below 100 and one above 100 and to consult with faculty members as they pursue their minors.

The following parameters apply to the minor in English:

- Students must receive a grade of C- or higher in any course that they wish to count towards the fulfillment of the minor.
- Only courses offered by the English Department or cross-listed with an English Department registration number can count for the English minor.
- ExCollege courses may not be counted towards the minor.
- No more than two transfer courses may be applied towards the minor. These *must* be taken in an English department.
- Students may count a maximum of three creative writing courses (defined as courses numbered English 0005- 0016) towards fulfillment of the minor.

The **English Minor Declaration Form** (*available on the English Department website or from the Department Office*) must be signed by a full-time faculty member and submitted to the English Department before December 2nd of the student's senior year. A printed copy of the student's unofficial transcript should accom-

pany the form. The student should then submit the signed form to Student Services as part of their Graduation Packet (which is comprised of an unsigned Advisement Report, a signed Major Checklist, and signed checklists for any second majors or minors.)

## Approved Courses for the Major

Please note: Not all courses are offered every semester. If a course that you are taking does not appear on this list, please consult with your advisor to determine which requirement it meets.

In addition, each semester the English Department offers several 91 and 191 courses in the Fall (*Topics in Literature and Culture* and *Seminars in English*) and 92 and 192 courses in the Spring (*Topics in Literature and Culture* and *Seminars in English*) that count toward the English major's Pre- or Post-1860 requirements. Please check the English Department website for current listings.

### 1. One Survey course:

No.	Title
0020	Black World Literature
0021	General View of English Literature I
0022	General View of English Literature II
0023	American Literature to 1855

### 2. Two non-survey classes in American, British, or other Anglo-phone literature written before 1860, including at least one course in British literature. No more than one course used to fulfill this part of the requirement may be on Shakespeare. The following courses meet this requirement:

No.	Title
0031	Underworlds (Fall 2015 and After)
0032	Epic Strain
0050	Shakespeare - F (formerly Shakespeare I)
0051	Shakespeare - S (formerly Shakespeare II)

0086	Jane Austen: Novels and Film
0101	Old English
0109	Ovid and the Ovidian Tradition
0104	Literature of the Middle Ages
0105	Middle English Literature
0107	Chaucer
0110	Renaissance in England
0111	English Literature of the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century
0112	Topics in Shakespeare
0113	Renaissance Drama
0114	Milton
0119	18 <sup>th</sup> -Century English Novel
0121	Romantic Literature & Culture I: 1789-1810
0122	Romantic Literature & Culture II: 1811-1837
0123	Frankenstein's Sisters: Austen & Shelley
0124	Visual Narrative Before Cinema
0138	Boston Radicals
0149	American Literature 1620-1815
0150	Cooper/Emerson/Thoreau
0151	Poe/Hawthorne/Melville
0182	American Gothic
0188	Slave Revolts & Maroons

**The following courses do NOT meet the PRE 1860 or POST 1860 requirement:**

No.	Title
0029	Literary Studies
0049	The English Bible
0108	Virgil and Dante

**3. Two non-survey courses in American, British, or Anglophone literature written after 1860.** The following courses meet this requirement:

No.	Title
0030	Twice Told Tales
0031	Underworlds (Prior to Fall 2015)
0035	Reading at Sea: Experimental Texts of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
0036	Asian American Writers
0040	Writing in the Beat Generation
0041	Literature of the Sixties
0045	Nonwestern Women Writers
0046	Girls' Books
0054	Conrad, Forster, Woolf
0058	Short Fiction
0063	American Fiction 1900-1950
0064	American Fiction 1950-Present
0069	Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Literature
0074	Literature of the Jazz Age
0077	The Modern Mind
0080	Hitchcock
0081	Postmodernism & Film
0082	Film & Society
0083	Un-American Activities
0084	Black Comedy
0085	Horror Stories
0089	Feminism in 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century US Lit and Culture
0126	Empire and Counterculture
0127	19 <sup>th</sup> -Century British Novel
0131	British Modernism
0132	20 <sup>th</sup> -Century British Novel
0133	Joyce & Lawrence
0134	James Joyce's Ulysses

0135	Virginia Woolf
0136	Major Figures of the Irish Literary Renaissance
0147	African American Novel
0152	Whitman & Dickinson
0153	American Realism
0154	American Indian Writers
0155	American Women Writers
0157	Poets on Poetry
0158	Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Faulkner
0159	Contemporary Jewish Fiction
0160	Environmental Justice & World Literature
0161	Memory for Forgetting
0162	Philip Roth & Company
0163	Speak, Memory: Contemporary Memoir
0164	Representing the Jew
0165	Perspectives on American Poetry
0167	What the Novel Knows
0168	"Home is Where the Hatred Is"
0170	Modern European Novel
0171	Women & Fiction
0172	War and American Values
0173	Literary Theory
0180	Psychoanalysis & Cinema (formerly Psychoanalysis & Cultural Criticism)
0183	American Culture during the Great Depression
0186	How Films Think
0187	Ghetto Sur/Realism: The Harlem (Detective) Fiction of Chester Himes
0189	Fanon & the Black (Textual) Revolution

- 3. Five remaining courses of the student's choice from the department's listings.** See online course listings ([ase.tufts.edu/english/courses/](http://ase.tufts.edu/english/courses/)). A Senior Honors Thesis may count for two of these courses. There are restrictions on the number of creative writing courses that may be applied (see “Major Concentration Requirements” for details).

## Advisors and Advising

### ***What is the Advising System About? What Role Does my Advisor Play?***

In order to declare a major in English you must select a major advisor from among the full-time members of the department. Your advisor will discuss the requirements for the major, give you advice about course selection, and be a resource for you as you think about your career as an English major at Tufts and your career options after graduation.

You must check in with your advisor every semester in order to register for courses the following semester. It is your responsibility to find out your advisor’s office hours and make an appointment to see your advisor to discuss things like class schedule, distribution requirements, career possibilities, graduate school admissions, or other academic matters.

Your advisor can also assist you if you find yourself facing difficulties of any sort while you are at Tufts. She or he can inform you of available services and can be a valuable resource as you negotiate the various challenges that college can present.

## ***Who Can Be My Advisor? How Do I Find One?***

Your advisor must be a full-time faculty member of the Department of English. It is your responsibility to select an advisor. Most students will select a member of the department with whom they have already worked and whose opinions and advice they respect. You should choose an advisor with whom you feel comfortable and who seems to be a good “fit” with you both intellectually and in terms of personality.

Although some professors will take on advisees they haven’t had as students, it is best all around to select your advisor from among those professors with whom you have studied. If that is not possible for some reason, then you should get the names of some professors in the English Department with whom you plan to study in the future (usually because their interests coincide with yours) and make appointments to talk with them during their office hours. This will enable you to see if they are taking on new advisees whom they haven’t had in class and whether or not they seem to be people with whom you could establish a comfortable relation as an advisee.

If you are unable to locate a professor to serve as your major advisor and wish to have the department chair assign an advisor to you please indicate so on the Declaration of Major form.

### ***The Crucial Thing is...***

Your major advisor is available to assist you, but it’s your job to seek out your advisor, not your advisor’s job to track you down! So find out your advisor’s office hours each semester and then be sure that you make use of them!

## ***Full-Time Faculty***

You can view the most up-to-date list of full-time faculty, email addresses, and office hours at <http://ase.tufts.edu/english/people/>.

<b>Name, Title, Field of Study</b>	<b>Email</b>
<u>Elizabeth Ammons</u> , Harriet H. Fay Professor of Literature; American Literature, literature and environmental justice	Elizabeth.Ammons@tufts.edu
<u>Linda Bamber</u> , Professor; Women and literature, Shakespeare	Linda.Bamber@tufts.edu
<u>Jay Cantor</u> , Professor; History of consciousness, modernism, creative writing	Jay.Cantor@tufts.edu
<u>Kevin Dunn</u> , Associate Professor; Renaissance literature	Kevin.Dunn@tufts.edu
<u>Lee Edelman</u> , Fletcher Professor of English Literature; literary theory, film studies, modern poetry	Lee.Edelman@tufts.edu
<u>John M. Fyler</u> , Professor; Chaucer, medieval literature	John.Fyler@tufts.edu
<u>Judith Haber</u> , Professor; Early Modern literature and culture	Judith.Haber@tufts.edu
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<u>Greg Thomas</u> , Associate Professor; African American literature	Greg.Thomas@tufts.edu
<u>Michael Ullman</u> , Lecturer; Non-fiction writing, British and Irish literature	Michael.Ullman@tufts.edu
<u>Jonathan Wilson</u> , Fletcher Professor of Rhetoric and Debate; American literature, creative writing	Jonathan.Wilson@tufts.edu
<u>Nathan Wolff</u> , Assistant Professor, Nineteenth-century American literature	Nathan.Wolff@tufts.edu

## Creative Writing Courses

The Department of English offers the opportunity to practice creative writing as part of the larger study of literature.

The Department of English strongly recommends that students serious about their writing balance creative writing courses with as many literature courses as possible. Reading widely and critically is the best way to learn to write well.

Because creative writing at Tufts is approached in the context of extensive reading and critical examination of literature, the Department does not offer a separate creative writing major or minor.

### ***English Major***

English majors may count up to *five* creative writing courses (defined as courses numbered English 0005- 0016) towards the major's required ten courses. See "Major Concentration Requirements" and "Approved Courses" for general information about the English Major.

### ***English Minor***

English minors may count up to *three* creative writing courses (defined as courses numbered English 0005- 0016) towards the minor's required six courses. See "Minor Concentration Requirements" for general information about the English minor.

### ***Prerequisites & Credits***

Course prerequisites are indicated in the following chart. Also indicated are restrictions on how many times a course may be counted for credit towards the English major or minor.

Level	Course	Prerequisites	# classes counted for Major/Minor Credit
Introductory	English 5: Fiction	Completion of College Writing Requirement	Two
	English 6: Poetry	Completion of College Writing Requirement	Two
	English 7: Journalism	Completion of College Writing Requirement	Two
Intermediate	English 9: Intermediate Fiction	Completion of College Writing Requirement; <b>Eng 5</b>	Two
	English 10: Non-fiction	Completion of College Writing Requirement	One
	English 11: Intermediate Journalism	Completion of College Writing Requirement; <b>Previous journalistic experience</b>	One
Advanced	English 13: Advanced Fiction	Completion of College Writing Requirement; <b>Two courses English 5 or English 5 and English 9</b>	three
	English 16: Forms of Poetry	Completion of College Writing Requirement; <b>Eng 6</b>	unlimited

***Courses Requiring Completion of College Writing Requirement:***

- Liberal Arts students must have taken English 1 **or** English 3 **and** English 2 *or* English 4.
- Engineering students must have taken English 1 **or** English 3.
- Complete information about the writing requirement, including exemptions, is online at <http://ase.tufts.edu/english/firstyear/>, and in the “First Year Writing Program Course Information Booklet,” available in the English Department office.
- **Students should check transcripts to ensure that any exemptions have been documented. Transcript-related questions should be directed to the Student Services desk in Dowling Hall (617-627-2000).**
- Students whose transcripts do not reflect fulfillment of the writing requirement will first be emailed to rectify the situation. If proof of fulfillment of the writing requirement is not delivered to Student Services in a timely manner, the student will then be automatically dropped from the course.

### ***Arts Distribution Requirement:***

- English 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, and 16 may be counted towards the Arts distribution.
- English 7 and 11 may **not** be counted towards the Arts distribution.
- To view other courses fulfilling Distribution requirements please use the “search for classes” function on SIS ([go.tufts.edu/sis](http://go.tufts.edu/sis)).

### ***Class Size & Attendance***

All sections are limited to twelve students. To retain your place you must be present at the first meeting of the course.

### ***Senior Honors Thesis***

See under “Senior Honors Thesis” for information about the creative option.

### ***Playwriting and Screenwriting Courses***

Please note that courses in playwriting and screenwriting are offered by the Department of Drama and Dance and do **not** count towards the English major.

## **Transfer of Credit**

If you plan on taking a class at another institution, the department encourages you to seek approval prior to enrollment to ensure the credits will be accepted. Transfer of credit requests should be submitted via SIS ([go.tufts.edu/sis](http://go.tufts.edu/sis)).

Please review the **University policies** (<http://students.tufts.edu/registrar/what-we-assist/transfer-credit>) and **English Department policies** before submitting your online request.

**For questions about credit transfers**, contact Student Services (617-627-2000).

If you have questions regarding department policies, or if you need to follow up on a request, contact the current Transfer of Credit representative.

### ***English Department Policies***

*For all students:* To receive approval from the English department, a transferred course must meet the following minimum conditions. English majors and minors should consult these instructions as well as the additional notes below.

1. The course must be taught in English.
2. If the course has a comparative framework, the majority (more than half) of the material must be Anglophone literature. Texts in translation, or in a language other than English, do not count.
3. The course should be offered in an English department. In rare cases, exceptions may be made for courses offered by departments for which Tufts has no equivalent (Comparative Literature, for example). In such cases, degree credit may be granted by the English department, assuming there is no more appropriate department to do so. All other conditions must be met for the English department to consider the request. Such courses do not count towards the major.

*For English majors:* A maximum of 4 transfer courses can be applied towards the major. All of the above conditions must be met. Students should note that courses not offered in an English department (item #3 above) will not be considered for credit towards the major. Should a student wish to make an appeal for a particular course, he or she should contact the transfer of credit representative directly and be prepared to present detailed information about the course.

*For English minors:* A maximum of 2 transfer courses may be applied towards the minor. All of the above conditions must be met. Students should note that courses not offered in an English department (item #3 above) will not be considered for credit towards the minor. Should a student wish to make an appeal for a particular course, he or she should contact the transfer of credit

representative directly and be prepared to present detailed information about the course.

### ***Transfer of Credit Representative***

Professor John Fyler (2017-2018)

## **Study Abroad Programs for Majors**

English majors have the option to study abroad for one or more semesters during their academic career. Students should plan carefully to ensure they meet all of the program prerequisites.

Tufts offers two official programs in England - one in Oxford and one in London. For these programs, all credits and grades are transferrable to a student's Tufts transcript; up to four of these credits can be used to fulfill English major requirements. Students wishing to attend one of these programs should consult with Professor John Fyler ([john.fyler@tufts.edu](mailto:john.fyler@tufts.edu)).

### ***Tufts in London***

The Tufts-in-London program (online at <https://students.tufts.edu/study-abroad/tufts-programs/london>) enrolls up to fifty students each year and is completely integrated into University College London, the School of Oriental and African Studies, and Royal Holloway University of London. University College London and SOAS are full-year programs. Royal Holloway offers both full-year and one-semester programs.

### ***Tufts in Oxford***

The Tufts-in-Oxford program (online at <http://students.tufts.edu/study-abroad/tufts-programs/oxford>)

allows a select few Tufts students to study at Pembroke College of Oxford University. It is a prestigious full-year program.

### ***Other Resources***

- **Office of Programs Abroad:**  
*<http://students.tufts.edu/study-abroad>*

## **Senior Honors Thesis**

In their senior year, English majors may apply to write an honors thesis. An honors thesis, as opposed to an independent study, represents an advanced level of work in an area that students have already studied as part of their major.

### ***Qualifications***

Because this is an honors program, admission is restricted to students whose names have appeared on the Dean's List at least two times before their senior year. Transfer students should have appeared on the Dean's List at least once at Tufts.

### ***Thesis Types***

*Critical Writing:* The critical writing thesis should be a substantial piece of work (generally between 35 and 60 pages) that demonstrates the student's ability to develop and sustain a coherent and comprehensive argument. Questions of format, length, and chapter division are determined by the student in consultation with her or his director and committee. Students are expected to have done prior course work or other research in the proposed field, to have demonstrated an ability to sustain an extended independent project, and to present a detailed and seriously thought-out proposal.

*Creative Writing:* The creative writing thesis should either be a unified set of works (poetry or short stories) or a single novel. Students must have taken at least two courses in the relevant genre, one of them above the beginning level, and must have the support of two full-time members of the department, having submitted for their consideration a substantial body of creative work.

### ***Thesis Directors***

Students are expected to confer with potential thesis director about their projects well in advance, normally no later than the spring of their junior year. Directors must be **full-time members** of the English Department and are normally professors with whom the student has already completed coursework in the area to be covered by the honors thesis (<http://ase.tufts.edu/english/people/fulltime.htm>). Once the proposal is approved, students will work out a schedule and assemble a committee in consultation with their director.

### ***Written Proposal***

After consulting with the potential director, students who intend to undertake an honors thesis are expected to produce a written proposal over the summer between their junior and senior years.

*Critical Thesis Proposal:* The proposal for a critical writing thesis, which is generally two to three pages in length, should present an overview of the topic, a discussion of the method of investigation or analysis, and a description of the organization of the thesis by chapter. It will often include a short preliminary bibliography of works (primary and secondary both) that the thesis will engage.

*Creative Thesis Proposal:* Understanding that the process of writing will dictate the results of a creative thesis, the proposal should be a brief, paragraph-long document simply giving a sense of the

project. It should act as a point of entry for the work to be done. Students should submit a sample of prose or poetry along with the proposal.

### ***Proposal Submission Guidelines***

- The written proposal should be produced in consultation with the thesis director before the deadline (September 15) for submission to the department, along with a confirmation that the student’s name has appeared on the Dean’s List at least two times before their senior year (or at least once for transfer students).
- The thesis director will then submit it for review to the full-time members of the English Department for a vote. Only those theses whose proposals are approved by vote of the English Department faculty will be permitted to go forward. Once the Department of English approves the written proposal, students will then be notified to go forward with registration.

### ***Senior Honors Thesis Registration***

The senior honors thesis is a year-long course. Approved students will receive an email with the following instructions:

- Complete and submit a signed “Senior Honors Thesis Form” (available in the English Department Main Office) to the English Department Administration within a week of receiving notification of project approval.
- Complete a Course Schedule Modification Form to register for ENG 0199-Senior Honors Thesis A for fall semester only. For the spring semester, the student must register for Eng 0199-Senior Honors Thesis B via SIS. Students must verify their course registration on SIS, and ensure that there is no course overload for either semester.

- Submit a signed “Thesis Honors Candidate Form” (available in Dowling Hall) to the Student Services Desk by October 8th.
- Students are encouraged to keep copies of both forms.

### ***Course Credits***

- A Senior Honors Thesis counts for a total of two credits, one for each semester registered.
- A Senior Honors Thesis may count as two of the five elective courses required for the English Major.

### ***Required Workshops***

All students doing senior honors theses will be expected to participate in the workshops being arranged by the Senior Honors Thesis Advisor (for the academic year 2017-2018 this will be Professor Michael Ullman).

### ***Thesis Defense***

An approved honors thesis culminates in a thesis defense, which is an hour-long meeting discussing and critiquing the student’s work, at the end of which a letter grade is issued and the level of honors awarded.

The defense is attended by the student and the two readers on their committee: the thesis director and a second reader (who must also be a full-time English Department faculty member.)

Students are expected to hand in final versions of their theses at least two weeks before their defense date. The defense usually takes place during the spring semester reading period and finals, and must be completed before grades are due.

## ***Archiving Manuscripts***

After the defense, students should submit a final copy of their completed senior honors thesis to the Digital Collection and Archives (DCA) either in digital form or as a hard copy (<https://mira.lib.tufts.edu/contribute>).

Students who have their thesis printed often make several extra copies for themselves and their family; in this case, they should also provide a copy to the English Department.

## ***Fulfilling Major Requirements***

The senior honors thesis counts as part of the required courses for the major. It is not necessary for a student to take ten courses in the major plus the two credits that the senior thesis confers; the two credits received for the thesis can and do count towards the ten courses in the major. Additionally, students can complete the other requirements for the major while working on their senior thesis.

## ***Further Information and Writing Support***

Students are highly encouraged to visit the following websites for extensive support in planning and writing their senior honors thesis:

- **Academic Resource Center:**  
<https://students.tufts.edu/academic-advice-and-support/academic-resource-center/what-we-offer/writing-support>
- **Tisch Library:** 8 week mini-course *Research 4 Success*  
<http://tischlibrary.tufts.edu/get-help/undergrad-thesis-writers>

## Graduating with Honors in English

Students who excel while attaining their English degree may be eligible for *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* honors at the recommendation of the Department. In order to be considered for these distinctions, students must meet certain requirements.

### ***Cum Laude***

Honorable mention (*cum laude*) may be conferred on any student who meets the following criteria:

- Five A's or A-'s in his/her English concentration.
- A GPA of 3.50 or higher.

### ***Magna Cum Laude***

High distinction (*magna cum laude*) may be conferred on any student who meets the following criteria:

- Six A's or A-'s in his/her English concentration.
- A GPA of 3.65 or higher.
- Recommended by the department on the basis of a departmental vote.

All students should be aware that Magna honors require more than the fulfillment of the requirements above. In order to graduate *Magna Cum Laude*, an honor bestowed in recognition of outstanding work in one's major, students must have demonstrated overall excellence in their studies of English through the depth and breadth of their coursework. Students will be expected, therefore, to have done well in both upper- and lower-level courses and to be active, engaged, and intellectually curious.

## ***Summa Cum Laude***

Highest distinction (*summa cum laude*) may be conferred on any student who meets the following criteria:

- Six A's or A-'s in his/her English concentration.
- An A or A- in at least four of the five distribution areas (the arts, the humanities, the mathematical sciences, the natural sciences, and the social sciences).
- A GPA of 3.80 or higher.
- A letter of recommendation from a member of the department.
- Approved by a vote of the entire faculty.

All students should be aware that Summa honors require more than the fulfillment of the requirements above. For graduation *Summa Cum Laude*, students must have demonstrated overall excellence both within the major and across the disciplines. *Summa Cum Laude* is a university-wide honor, not a departmental one, and so is voted by the entire Faculty of Liberal Arts.

## ***Consideration for Honors***

All eligible students are automatically considered for honors. Students need not take any action to be considered for *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude*.

## ***Notification of Honors***

Student Services notifies honors recipients just prior to commencement; marching cards are stamped with the appropriate honors information.

## ***Further Information***

- **Tufts Bulletin:** <http://ase.tufts.edu/bulletin>

## Writing Prizes

The Department of English holds two writing contests each year. Calls for entry are posted mid-February, with submissions due in late March. Prizewinners are announced in April and participate in a student reading.

### ***Guidelines:***

- Submit two copies of your original, typed and double spaced.
- Choose a pseudonym and write it on EACH page of your submission. Your real name should NOT appear on any page of your story or poetry.
- Fill out a submission form, available at the English office, and online. Each student is allowed only one submission in each category.
- Submissions will not be returned.

Submissions must be turned in to 210 East Hall by 4:00 PM on the due date.

### ***The Academy of American Poets Poetry Prize***

The Academy of American Poets offers over 200 prizes each year to college students who have excelled at writing poetry. Founded in 1955, the University and College Poetry Prize has awarded more than \$350,000 to nearly 10,000 students since it began. The program is notable for having recognized many of America's premier poetic voices during their college years, including Diane Ackerman, Alice Fulton, Tess Gallagher, Allen Grossman, Kimiko Hahn, Robert Hass, Brad Leithauser, J.D. McClatchy, Heather McHugh, and Gregory Orr, among others.

The Academy offers first-, second- and third-place awards to three Tufts undergraduate students each year. The first-place winner receives a prize of \$100.

## ***The Morse Hamilton Fiction Prize***

The Morse Hamilton Fiction Prize, sponsored by the Department of English, recognizes one full-time Tufts undergraduate each year who has excelled at fiction writing. The prize is named after the late English Professor Morse Hamilton, who was a memorable and beloved figure in the department for many years.

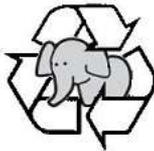
Students may submit fictional works of any length. The winner, selected by a fiction writer outside the department, will be awarded a prize of \$100. In addition, submissions may be selected for honorable mention.

## **Planning for Graduate Programs**

Students who are considering the possibility of pursuing their English studies in graduate school should plan their undergraduate programs carefully in order to ensure adequate preparation. Most graduate schools will expect students to be able to demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language (and often two or three). They will generally be looking for students whose undergraduate course work in literature exceeds the minimum requirements for graduation, and they will be especially interested in students who have done extensive work in upper-level courses. In addition, they will in most cases look more favorably on applicants whose course selections demonstrate a familiarity with texts from a variety of literary periods and genres. Students can maximize their preparation for graduate school by choosing their courses at Tufts so as to acquaint themselves both with the major authors of the literary canon and with less canonical authors, as well as with the newer critical and theoretical approaches that challenge the ways in which the canon has been formulated.

More information on the Tufts graduate program in English can be found at <http://ase.tufts.edu/english/graduate/>.

For further information and advice, contact the Tufts Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Elizabeth Ammons.



Pass me along or recycle me!

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**August, 2017**