

English Major, Concentration in Honors English and Composition Working Document

Concentration Description

A concentration in Honors English and Composition will harness students' curiosity and intellectual motivation to expand the research and analysis offered in the English Major. Students will apply service, leadership, independent inquiry, and creative problem solving to a variety of special projects and experiential learning opportunities.

Four year institutions with similar programs, minors, and concentrations are [Texas State University](#), [A&M-College Station](#), [the University of Texas at Austin](#), and [the University of Texas at San Antonio](#). **This document serves as a guide for departmental advising and student information, and it is not intended to replace an ACC Advising Appointment. Please verify transferability of course selections with the projected target institution's requirements in an appointment with an Academic Adviser.**

Concentration Outcomes

English Majors concentrating in Honors English and Composition will be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of literacy and critical thinking in social service and leadership activities
- Apply creative solutions to complex problems in a variety of rhetorical situations and literary contexts
- Synthesize information drawn from independent inquiry, critical review and analysis, and personal experience to explore ethical, social, and cultural issues raised in texts

Program Outcomes

The following outcomes are developed in all Composition courses:

- expanded critical reading ability;
- strengthened written communication skills, characterized by
 - ability to write to the specifications of an assignment;
 - ability to develop a thesis, locate and select credible sources applicable to the thesis, and write an essay of the specified length that responds to the thesis;
 - ability to use standard American English writing conventions (grammar, spelling, usage, punctuation, and formatting) and the ability to communicate to readers with clarity and fluency.
- improved critical thinking, characterized by
 - examination of multiple components of a larger issue,
 - synthesis and evaluation of multiple perspectives,
 - consideration of moral/ethical questions.

The following outcomes are developed in all Literature courses:

- Write clearly, coherently and effectively about various genres in literature
- In discussions and writing, address the culture and context of the work of literature
- Write about and discuss elements of literary texts and relate these to the work as a whole.

General Education Competencies

Upon completion of the general education component of an associate's degree, students will demonstrate competence in:

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills (COM)** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Completion Requirements

- Honors English and Composition Portfolio
 - See Portfolio Content Requirements and Submission Process Below
- Achievement of Honors Scholar Status - [Click Here to view the Honors Scholar Webpage](#)
 - Maintain a 3.5 GPA
 - Earn at least 9 hours of Honors Course Credit
 - Engage in **leadership activities**, which may include holding officer positions in student organizations (HSO, PTK, SGA, SKD, etc.); serving as an Honors ambassador; completing UT's Youth and Community Studies (YCS) Fellows Program; participating in the PPIA Public Service Weekend hosted by UT's LBJ School; or taking Honors SPCH 1311, Introduction to Speech: "Developing Leadership Communication Competencies."
 - Engage in **service activities**, which may include participating in specific service projects, performing service hours (12 hours minimum) with ACC's non-profit partners, or taking service-learning classes, such as Honors SPCH 1311: "Identity, Sex, Gender, and Culture in Communication" or SPCH 1315: "Environment, Rights, Humanitarianism and the Rhetoric of Change." Honors students may also serve as peer tutors to ACC's Integrated Reading and Writing students and volunteers at KOOP Radio. This community-supported local radio station allows Honors students to serve in a capacity according to their individual interests (radio and audio production, social media, web content, web maintenance, graphic design, etc.). For more information about ACC's non-profit partners, visit ACC's volunteer hub, which offers both in-person and remote opportunities. Students interested in green volunteering will find a wealth of options in ACC Sustainability's "green cards."
- 3 of the 5 ENGL course requirements for the English AA must be honors courses
 - One Honors HIST course may replace an Honors ENGL course

Portfolio Content Requirements

Students concentrating in Honors English and Composition will assemble and submit a portfolio of assignments demonstrating achievement of the concentration outcomes. The portfolio contents should be assembled using work already successfully completed for courses taken in service of the English degree, and should include the following:

- A Table of Contents organizing the portfolio
- Four to eight academic artifacts, according to the following guidelines:
 - At least two academic artifacts should demonstrate achievement of research, synthesis, and argumentative writing goals
 - At least three academic artifacts should demonstrate critical analysis or problem solving focused on leadership and service experiences
 - At least three academic artifacts should demonstrate personal engagement with and response to ethical, social or cultural issues
- Each artifact should include a brief critical preface of no more than 100 words explaining how the artifact demonstrates portfolio criteria and achievement of the concentration outcomes
- Individual academic artifacts may demonstrate more than one requirement listed in the portfolio guidelines

Portfolio Submission Process

Students choosing to submit a portfolio to satisfy the requirements of the Concentration in Popular Culture should submit the Portfolio Interest and Acknowledgement Form found here **(FORM AND LINK PENDING)** as early in their course selection and registration process as possible.

That form will be acknowledged and returned by a faculty advisor on the Portfolio Review and Advising team. Students will have opportunities to engage with faculty advisors to ensure progress in the major and concentration and to enrich the student's experience in the English major with mentorship and guidance.

The portfolio is due at the same date and time as the Graduation Application ([Click Here for the Graduation Calendar and Requirements Page](#)) in the student's graduating semester. Students will submit their portfolio to the Portfolio Submission Form found here **(FORM AND LINK PENDING)**. A Faculty Reviewer will use the Portfolio Checklist below to assess the portfolio, then send the portfolio and rubric to the Department Chair for a final signature. Students will be notified of the status of their portfolios prior to graduation.

Portfolio Checklist - ([CLICK HERE](#))

Students and their portfolios will be celebrated on the English Major Website and at the Close the Book, You're Done! Graduation Reception.