English

Objectives
English majors are expected
1. To read texts with careful attention, to understand how authors and readers create meaning in texts, to recognize rhetorical and literary techniques in texts, to recognize key ideas in texts and rhetorical strategies used to develop them, and to respond to aesthetic, rhetorical and cultural qualities in texts.
2. To write clearly and fluently, to organize coherently and logically, to edit writing so that it conforms to standard usage, and to develop convincingly argued essays.
3. To understand the relationship of literature to history and culture, to understand the history of literature in English in terms of major periods and authors, to recognize and define major genres of literature, and to recognize and define forms and techniques in literature.
4. To understand several critical approaches to interpreting texts, to apply these approaches to specific texts, to relate the study of texts in English to other disciplines, and to understand the general nature, purpose, and methods of English studies.
5. To understand and use basic research tools, to develop questions and topics worth researching, to use research to develop theses effectively, and to incorporate research into writing.

Mission
According to our mission statement, "Department faculty share the conviction that the study of English exercises the imagination and teaches the value of individual perception, the importance of culture, and the power of ideas. The faculty also believe that English Studies provides a foundation for lifelong learning and prepares majors for a variety of careers." The learning goals for the BA in English are consistent with this mission because they emphasize the importance of reading, writing, interpretation, and research. These abilities enhance the intellectual, imaginative, aesthetic, and ethically development of majors and prepare them for lifelong learning and a variety of careers.