

Community College of Philadelphia

Proposal for an Associate in Arts Degree in English

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I. Abstract

The Associate's degree program in English will allow students to develop the reading, writing, and analytical skills necessary for success at baccalaureate institutions and in the workplace. The program will introduce students to a diverse world of literature. By requiring specific foundational courses and leaving students the freedom to choose a significant number of Humanities, English, and General Electives, the program will prepare students for transfer to a number of different institutions.

II. Opportunities or Problems Addressed by the Proposed Programs

Creating an Associate's degree program in English will provide students at the Community College of Philadelphia with a strong liberal arts background to reinforce the reading, writing, and analytical skills required to succeed beyond the Associate degree level, either at four-year colleges or in careers. Both employers and four-year colleges have emphasized the significance of the skills granted by an Associate's degree in English.

For example, Travis Reindl, director of state policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, explains, "Students are finding that writing, speaking and analytical skills have become a prerequisite for success 'whether you're going into a machine shop in Martin, Pa., or the law school at Penn'" (*Pittsburgh Post Gazette* Sept. 2, 2006). In fact, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reports that Liberal Arts is the third most in-demand undergraduate major, with English ranking as the third most in-demand Liberal Arts degree ("College Degrees Employers Want Most," *Forbes* Nov. 1, 2011). Community College of Philadelphia can meet this demand by creating an English major.

This proposed degree complies with the Statewide Program to Program Articulation Agreement in English so that CCP graduates may transfer earned credits to participating institutions.

III. Expected Program Participants

The A.A. degree in English is appropriate for students who wish to focus on literature and writing, while improving their ability to read, analyze, interpret, and research. Over the past ten years at the College, 307 students have taken two or more literature and/or creative writing courses, and 134 students have taken three or more literature and/or creative writing courses. In addition, since 2007, 361 students have enrolled in the Creative Writing Certificate Program. These numbers indicate an existing group of students with a strong interest in literature and creative writing, some of whom may choose to pursue an Associate's degree in English.

IV. Description of the Proposed Program

The English degree program is for Community College of Philadelphia students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs in English and for students undecided about their long-term educational goals but interested in literature and writing. Because transfer institutions require students to take specific courses prior to entry, it is highly recommended that students consult catalogs of schools to which they might transfer and transfer worksheets available in the Career and Transfer Center (or from the English Department), as well as their advisors and mentors, in order to make appropriate selections for their elective courses.

The English degree program will provide students with a broad-based foundational knowledge of literature and writing. The program is designed to replicate the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree program in English.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate how elements of a literary genre help to create a work's theme or artistic impact.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of critical approaches to literary study, including relevant terminology.
- Analyze a work of literature written in English in its cultural and historical context.
- Engage in effective academic writing within the discipline of literature.

PROGRAM OF STUDY AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in English, a student must complete a minimum of 61 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 ("C" average).

V. Internal Program Coherence

Students will begin with ENGL 190: Introduction to Literature, which will be designed to introduce students to the three major genres: prose, poetry and drama. The course is designed to allow students to develop "an appreciation of literature, a facility in reading and an increased skill in the interpretation of literature," according to the proposed catalog description. This course will teach the basic terminology and critical approaches relevant to the further study of literature. As illustrated in the curriculum map (Appendix B) all four of the student learning outcomes are introduced in ENGL 190: Introduction to Literature and reinforced in the literature survey courses and English electives.

Students must take three of the following four Literature Survey courses, two in the second semester and one in the third semester:

- ENGL 211 – Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750;
- ENGL 212 – Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era;
- ENGL 221 – Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War;
- ENGL 222 – Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present.

Most local four-year colleges require these courses in an English degree as they provide a historical foundation. These courses have also been designed to introduce students to a diverse range of authors writing in English. In addition, transfer institutions welcome these courses and readily grant them credit as meeting threshold requirements for upper division study.

In addition, students must take one course in World Literature, either ENGL 245: World Literature – From Antiquity to 1500 or ENGL 246: World Literature: From 1500 to the Present. This course will help students put literature written in English into a global context. The TAOC agreement states that students must take a World Literature ‘survey course’ and ENGL 245 and 246 clearly meet this standard. Courses that focus on a particular continent or region such as ENGL 230-Asian Literature and ENGL 256-African Literature are valuable; however, they may not be accepted by baccalaureate institutions as meeting the TAOC standard of a World Literature ‘survey course’. Students who wish to take literature courses that focus on a particular region may take them as their literature elective but not as their literature survey elective.

Consistent with other undergraduate programs in English, students supplement the required survey courses with two additional literature or creative writing courses that may be more specialized. Students may choose these electives to satisfy requirements at their target transfer schools or to develop a specialization in a particular area of interest.

Students will choose two English electives from the following list:

- ENGL 106: Grammar
- ENGL 137: Introduction to Theater
- ENGL 205: Creative Writing
- ENGL 208: Introduction to Prose (new title)
- ENGL 209: Introduction to Poetry (new title)
- ENGL 211 Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750
- ENGL 212 Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era
- ENGL 221 Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War
- ENGL 222 Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present
- ENGL 230: Asian Literature
- ENGL 232: Introduction to Drama (new title)
- ENGL 241: Introduction to Shakespeare
- ENGL 245 World Literature: From Antiquity to 1500
- ENGL 246 World Literature: From 1500 to the Present
- ENGL 250: African-American Literature I
- ENGL 251: African-American Literature II
- ENGL 256: African Literature
- ENGL 260: Women in Literature
- ENGL 265: Science Fiction
- ENGL 271: The Language of Film
- ENGL 272: Topics in Film Study

ENGL 280: Poetry Writing
ENGL 281: Fiction Writing
ENGL 282: Scriptwriting
ENGL 283: Nonfiction Writing: Memoir and Literary Journalism
ENGL 285: Portfolio Development.

The Creative Writing Academic Certificate will articulate with this degree.

VI. Catalog page

English Degree

The English degree program is for Community College of Philadelphia students planning to transfer to baccalaureate programs in English and for students interested in literature and writing. Because transfer institutions require students to take specific courses, it is highly recommended that students consult catalogs of schools to which they might transfer and transfer worksheets available in the Career and Transfer Center (or from the English Department), as well as their advisors and mentors, in order to make appropriate selections for their elective courses. The A.A. degree in English is appropriate for students who wish to focus on literature and writing, while improving their ability to read, analyze, interpret, research, and persuade.

Note: Many, but not all, transfer institutions require some knowledge of a foreign language (from one semester to two years of study at the college level or the equivalent). Some accept American Sign Language, and some allow non-native speakers of English to count proficiency in their primary language or to count English as their foreign language (as does the College). Students planning to transfer should be aware of foreign language requirements that may affect their acceptance into certain colleges and programs.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate how elements typical of a literary genre help to create a work's theme or artistic impact.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of critical approaches to literary study, including relevant terminology.
- Analyze a work of literature written in English in its cultural and historical context.
- Engage in effective academic writing within the discipline of literature.

PROGRAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are typically required to take the College's placement tests at their time of entry. Students identified as needing developmental course work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate English and Mathematics courses as a part of their degree program.

PROGRAM OF STUDY AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in English, a student must complete a minimum of 61 credit hours as prescribed and attain a grade point average of 2.0 (“C” average).

English Course Sequence

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites and Corequisites	Credits	Gen. Ed. Req.
FIRST SEMESTER			
ENGL 101—English Composition I		3	ENGL 101
MATH 118—Intermediate Algebra (or higher)		3	Mathematics
CIS 103—Applied Computer Technology *		3	Tech Comp
Social Science Elective		3	Soc. Sci.
ENGL 190—Introduction to Literature		3	Writing Intensive; Am/Global Diversity; Interpretive Humanities
SECOND SEMESTER			
ENGL 102—The Research Paper	ENGL 101	3	ENGL 102; Info Lit
Literature Survey Elective Choose Two ENGL 211 Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750 OR ENGL 212 Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era OR ENGL 221 Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War OR ENGL 222 Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present		6	
Laboratory Science		4	Natural Science
Humanities Elective**		3	
THIRD SEMESTER			
ENGL 245 World Literature: From Antiquity to 1500 OR ENGL 246 World Literature: From 1500 to the Present		3	
Literature Survey choose one ENGL 211 Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750 OR ENGL 212 Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era OR ENGL 221 Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War OR ENGL 222 Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present		3	
General Elective		3	
Humanities Elective		3	

ENGL 115-Public Speaking		3	
FOURTH SEMESTER			
English Elective Choose Two: ENGL 106: Grammar ENGL 137: Introduction to Theater ENGL 205: Creative Writing ENGL 208: Introduction to Prose ENGL 209: Introduction to Poetry ENGL 211 Survey of British Literature: From Beginnings to 1750 ENGL 212 Survey of British Literature: From 1750 to the Modern Era ENGL 221 Survey of American Literature: From the Beginnings to the Civil War ENGL 222 Survey of American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present ENGL 230: Asian Literature ENGL 232: Introduction to Drama ENGL 241: Introduction to Shakespeare ENGL 245 World Literature: From Antiquity to 1500 ENGL 246 World Literature: From 1500 to the Present ENGL 250: African-American Literature I ENGL 251: African-American Literature II ENGL 256: African Literature ENGL 260: Women in Literature ENGL 265: Science Fiction ENGL 271: The Language of Film ENGL 272: Topics in Film Study ENGL 280: Poetry Writing ENGL 281: Fiction Writing ENGL 282: Scriptwriting ENGL 283: Nonfiction Writing: Memoir and Literary Journalism ENGL 285: Portfolio Development.		6	
Humanities Elective		3	
Social Science Elective		3	
General Elective		3	
MINIMUM CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE: 61			

General Education Requirements

All General Education requirements are met through required courses.

*Students with computer skills may apply for credit by exam through the Computer Technologies Department.

** ENGL 205 is recommended for students also pursuing the Creative Writing Academic Certificate

VII. Program's Institutional Congruence

The Associate's degree program will also allow students to experience a wide range of courses that will enhance their disciplinary knowledge. For example, students must take an Artistic/Oral course, which will allow them to explore Art, Music, Public Speaking, or Photography. They must take three Humanities electives, which may include foreign languages or humanities courses in several disciplines. By taking a significant number of Social Science, Humanities, and General Electives, students can both prepare for further study at a four-year school and broaden their knowledge of the historical, sociological, cultural and artistic contexts in which literature is created.

VIII. Proposed Courses

Currently, there is only one new course proposed as part of the English Degree: English 190: Introduction to Literature. According to the proposed catalog description, "This course introduces students to the study of literary texts in the three major genres: prose, poetry and drama. The goal is for students to develop an appreciation of literature, a facility in reading and an increased skill in the interpretation of literature." This course will be useful to non-majors as well.

IX. Fiscal Implications

The proposed English degree will provide students with new opportunities at minimal cost. All of the courses in the proposed program are open to non-majors and require no specialized space or equipment.

Appendix A

Similar Programs at Students' Selected Transfer Target Schools			
	Is there a required "Introduction to the Major" type course?	If there is such a required course, is it a "gateway" course (a prerequisite to upper level courses in major)?	What courses are required within the major?
Arcadia	YES: Interpreting Lit. I & II	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting Lit. I • Interpreting Lit. II • Studies in Classic & Medieval Europe • Studies in European Renaissance & Enlightenment • Modern Brit. Lit. • Modern Amer. Lit. • The World, the Text & the Critic
Drexel	NO: Just Freshman English requirements	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am. Lit I • Am. Lit II • Brit. Lit. I • Brit. Lit. II • Shakespeare • Senior Project • Phil. in Literature
Holy Family	NO	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Lit. I • World Lit. II • Am. Lit. I • Am. Lit. II • Brit. Lit. I • Brit. Lit. II • Creative Writing • Junior Seminar • The English Language • Senior Seminar
LaSalle	YES: ENG 180 (Intro. to Lit. Study)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced writing course • Two British Lit. • Two Amer. Lit. • Lit. Theory &

			<p>Criticism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • Capstone Seminar
St. Joseph's	YES: Sophomore Seminar (Crit. Approaches to Lit. Studies)	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophomore Seminar (Crit. Approaches to Lit. Studies) • Shakespeare • Brit. Lit. pre 1832 or Am. Lit. pre 1860 • Brit./Irish/World Lit. course • American Lit. course • Writing
Temple	YES: Intro. to English Studies	YES: Required for 3000 level courses or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro. to English Studies • Survey of Eng. Lit. Beg. To 1660 • Survey of Eng. Lit. 1660-1900 • Survey of Am. Lit I • Survey of Am. Lit II • Senior Capstone Course
Villanova	YES: The Literary Experience	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 courses in Brit. Lit. pre 1800 • 2 courses in Lit. after 1900 • Junior Research Seminar • Senior Seminar

Appendix B Curriculum Map

English Degree Curriculum Map				
Courses	Student Learning Outcomes			
	Demonstrate how elements typical of a literary genre help to create a work's theme or artistic impact.	Demonstrate a basic understanding of critical approaches to literary study, including relevant terminology.	Analyze a work of literature written in English in its cultural and historical context.	Engage in effective academic writing within the discipline of literature.
ENGL 190	I, A	I, A	I, A	I, A
Literature Survey Courses	R, A	R, A	R, A	R, A
English Electives	R, A	R, A	R, A	R, A

Key: "I"=Introduced; "R"=reinforced and opportunity to practice; "M"=mastery at the senior or exit level; "A"=assessment evidence collected