

College of Arts and Sciences Foundation Profile

Department of English

I. General Description

The mission of the Department of English is to educate students and advance knowledge in literature, language, and culture. The Department strives to achieve this mission by offering courses that empower students to think, write, and read critically—taught by faculty who commit themselves, individually and collectively, to achieving and maintaining excellence in teaching. Through the publication and presentation of scholarly and creative works—as well as engagement in University, community, and professional service—faculty both model professional activities for students and also encourage such work by our students.

II. Points of Pride

- We offer a balanced program in which English Liberal Arts and English Teaching majors share core classes taught exclusively by faculty with PhDs or MFAs.
- We are one of the oldest teacher-training programs in our state; our English Teaching majors currently have a 100% pass rate on the state licensure exam and high rate of job placement.
- We offer a comprehensive MA program with specialties in literature and writing (both expository and creative).
- Graduates of our MA programs teach in community colleges and high schools, pursue doctoral studies, work in the publishing industry, and enroll in law schools.
- We are the home of the internationally recognized Joseph S. Schick Lectures in Language, Literature, and Lexicography and maintain the Schick Library with over five-hundred volumes written by previous speakers.

III. Vision

We strive to inculcate in our students an understanding of and an appreciation for literature (British, American, and world), the art and craft of writing, and critical thinking. Under the guidance of faculty—scholars, our students improve their understanding of the discipline, with the goal of producing well-trained undergraduate majors (in both English Liberal Arts and English Teaching) and graduate students.

IV. Opportunities for Philanthropic Support

- *Opportunities for Naming:* Provide funds to establish a titled faculty position (i.e., Early British, Creative Writing, Gender Studies). \$500,000-\$2,000,000.
- *Endowed Awards:* Provide funds to recognize the outstanding work of students and faculty (i.e., Outstanding English Major, Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Outstanding Instructor). Minimum of \$20,000 to name a scholarship.
- *Endowed Scholarships:* Provide tuition and fees for undergraduate or graduate students in English. Minimum of \$20,000 to name a scholarship.
- *Professional Development for Instructors:* Provide funds to support conference and workshop attendance for Instructors of composition. \$5,000 per year.
- *Undergraduate Research Expenses:* Provide funds for undergraduate research projects (supervised by faculty) and for travel to conferences to present their findings. \$5,000 per year.
- *Graduate Research Expenses:* Provide funds for graduate students to conduct thesis research and to travel to conferences to present their findings. \$5,000 per year.