

Who We Are

The English Department at IUP is a diverse and accomplished community of teacher-scholars united by our love of spoken and written language and by our dedication to intellectually rigorous teaching. We thrive on an atmosphere of academic freedom that encourages both faculty and student development. The largest department at IUP and among all PASSHE universities, we offer many degrees in English from the bachelors to the graduate levels, and our Ph.D. programs are among the most prolific in the field. Our faculty have won many awards for teaching and advising and are active and expert scholars. We take pride in the distinction that full-time faculty at all levels regularly teach the liberal studies courses in English that are required of all undergraduates at IUP.

As a community of teacher-scholars, the English Department remains true to IUP's origins as a state teachers college or "normal school," and maintains an important focus on the training of English teachers. Above all, the department serves to promote various kinds of literacy, offering a wide array of educational opportunities in textual and cultural studies, creative and professional writing, and the teaching of English language and literature. For all IUP undergraduate students, the department offers foundational liberal studies courses that foster critical skills in writing and reading. For undergraduate English majors and minors, the department provides a range of theoretically-informed tracks that seek to represent the diverse areas of English studies: Literature, Writing Studies, Pre-Law, and English Education. For masters students, the department offers three programs: M.A. in Literature, M.A. in Composition and Literature, and M.A. TESOL. For doctoral students, the department has two graduate programs: one in Literature and Criticism and one in Composition and TESOL. All the graduate English programs include summers-only options that serve full-time teaching professionals. All faculty contribute to English studies through teaching and scholarship, and full-time faculty also advise students and mentor Teaching Associates and Temporary Faculty.

Mission and Vision

The English Department serves IUP and the wider discipline by providing students with a high-quality education in English Studies. A central part of the department's mission is to prepare English teachers. We envision IUP English as a leader in English Studies in Pennsylvania and across the globe.

Our Values

- **Critical Literacy**

We aim to develop students' abilities to read, comprehend, and critique a full range of texts: written and visual, printed and digital, and literary and technical. We want students to move from consumers of information to literate intellectuals in various media.

- **Cultural Understanding**

We seek to enrich students' awareness of how texts are produced in specific historical, global, and cultural contexts. We want students to grow in their appreciation of the diversity of human expression in language, literature, film, and other forms of writing and communication.

- **Textual Production**

We work to build students' powers in authoring many kinds of writing: aesthetic and professional, persuasive and descriptive, and analytical and creative. We want students to be passionate writers, careful editors, and self-reflective communicators in a wide array of media and forms and genres.

- **The Teacher-Scholar Model**

We believe that the best teachers are active participants in the scholarly and professional dialogues in their fields. Our faculty contribute to the communities of English Studies scholarship while also guiding students to become active members of those conversations.

Department History

IUP and its English Department have played a not insignificant role in the history of Pennsylvania higher education. More about this well-documented history can be found in such sources as James Pyle Wickersham, *A History of Education in Pennsylvania* (1886) and John Edward Merriman, *The Indiana Story, 1875-1975* (1976).

- 1834: The Free Schools Act passed by the Pennsylvania legislature. This and subsequent laws, notably the Normal Schools Act of 1857, inaugurate state regulation of and support for post-secondary training of teachers.
- 1855: Millersville State Normal School is founded, the first normal school in the state, now PASSHE sister school Millersville University of Pennsylvania.
- 1875: IUP is founded as Indiana State Normal School (ISNS). Both instructors and students (the large majority of whom are women) are housed in the original campus building, Sutton Hall, which also contains classrooms, bookstore, library, chapel, model school, and laundry facilities. Featuring such advanced amenities as central heating, Sutton Hall is designed to make ISNS a leading institution of American higher education. In line with state mandates, subjects related to English make up a large part of the curriculum, including orthography, reading, elocution, writing, grammar, and English literature.
- 1920: ISNS is given the right to grant degrees, and the name is changed to Indiana State Teachers College.
- 1952: The original Leonard Hall burns down. It is named after noted founding faculty member Jane Leonard, who retired from teaching in 1921, having taught for 46

years. Leonard Hall is rebuilt in 1954, housing the English Department until its replacement in 2015.

- 1959: The institution's name is changed again, to Indiana State College. Many other degree programs are now offered besides education.
- 1965: Name changed again, to Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the first doctoral program is offered. By state law, Indiana remains the only PASSHE institution to offer courses leading to the Ph.D.
- 1969: The Pennsylvania College English Association (PCEA), a regional affiliate of the College English Association (CEA), is founded in or before this year. English Department faculty actively serve as PCEA officers and board members.
- 1975: Sutton Hall is added to the National Register of Historic Places, saving it from planned demolition (though later extensions to the original building were removed to make room for Stapleton Library). The restored building still houses a number of English faculty offices.
- 1980: The English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) is founded, a regional organization for both faculty and students in English of what are now the 14 PASSHE campuses. Most recently, IUP has hosted the annual fall EAPSU conference (for faculty and graduate students) in 2007, and the annual spring conference (for undergraduates) in 2014.
- 1983: The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) is created, eventually unifying IUP with 13 other campuses: California, Cheney, Clarion, Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, and West Chester. Many of these were also founded as teachers colleges, and all, like IUP, have evolved into comprehensive state universities which together serve well over 100,000 enrolled students each year. It is the largest university system in Pennsylvania, and only 10 other states have larger public university systems. IUP's English Department has the distinction of being the largest academic department in the PASSHE system.
- 1992: IUP's honors college is founded, its first class entering in 1996. Named after IUP alumnus and major donor Robert E. Cook, it is housed in the fully renovated Whitmyre Hall. Its first director is English faculty member Janet Goebel, who leads the Cook Honors College for over two decades. Many English faculty offer the honors core courses and summer programs for high school students that deliver the CHC's seminar-based liberal arts curriculum.
- 2006: IUP breaks ground on the Residential Revival, one of the largest dormitory reconstruction projects in the United States. Over four years and at a cost of \$245 million, eleven traditional undergraduate residence halls are replaced by eight new LEED-certified, suite-style structures designed as themed living-learning spaces. These include Delaney Hall (which has a theme of civic engagement and social justice) and Ruddock Hall (education), where English students can elect to be clustered.

- 2016: The department moves into the top floor of the new Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) building that replaces Leonard and Keith Halls.
- 2017: Sponsored by the English Department, the annual PCEA conference is held on IUP's campus.
- 2018: The razing of the second Leonard Hall is completed. The English Department's fifth floor HSS meeting space is renamed the Jane Leonard Conference Room.