

## Undergraduate Programs

### **Liberal Studies English (LSE)**

The Liberal Studies English (LSE) Program serves thousands of students every academic year in three courses: ENGL 101 Composition I, ENGL 202 Composition II, and ENGL 121 Humanities Literature. Some students also enroll in ENGL 100 Basic Writing on their way to the other three courses. LSE sections occur face-to-face and online, during all semesters (including winter and summer sessions), with specific sections dedicated to multilingual writers, as well as at the Northpointe, Punxsutawney, and Indiana campuses, in order to accommodate the needs of as many students in as many ways as possible.

LSE courses are designed to introduce all IUP students to foundational literacy skills that can then be augmented in subsequent coursework. These skills include rhetorical flexibility, genre awareness, critical reading and textual analysis, development of an individual writing process, and information literacy and research skills. The courses are taught by permanent faculty who are committed to undergraduate education and are experts not only in their disciplinary specialty but also in pedagogy. Sections are also taught by graduate students in the department's Ph.D. programs. These graduate instructors are closely mentored by department faculty for as many years as they teach for the LSE program.

Unlike many general education English programs or first-year writing programs, ones that may typically require only one or two courses, the three LSE courses have sequenced and overlapping course objectives that provide opportunities for students to compound literacy skills over three semesters. The LSE curriculum explicitly combines reading and writing in order to prepare IUP undergraduates for work in their majors courses. Its support for the LSE Program demonstrates the university's commitment to helping students develop literacy skills that allow them to be successful in their careers at IUP and beyond.

### **The English B.A. Program**

The department's English B.A. Program offers many opportunities for students, starting with various tracks that allow students to specialize in Writing Studies, Literature and Cultural Studies, and Pre-Law (described in more detail below). Courses cover the full disciplinary range of English Studies, and include a gateway seminar for beginning majors and a capstone experience for majors in their final year. Students read texts from the canonical to new media, master critical and analytical skills, and learn to express themselves in diverse writing contexts. The program offers students the skills they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives as members of a diverse and ever-changing society, including critical thinking and effective written and oral communication.

Almost all of the department's full-time faculty regularly participate in teaching English B.A. students. All hold terminal degrees in English, writing, literature, or related fields. While they

publish books, articles, and creative works, the B.A. faculty's main focus is on teaching. Many of our faculty members have won campus and national teaching awards. The program's commitment to students' professional development allows English majors to demonstrate their knowledge and skills throughout the university community and beyond.

The department also sponsors a robust internship program that places students at national magazines, in government offices and libraries, and other positions relevant to the discipline. The department also offers opportunities for students to work collaboratively and publish their own professional and creative writing. In addition to serving B.A. English majors, the program offers courses taken by students in the pre-law tracks in other majors, by Women's Studies minors, and other students from across campus, such as Religious Studies majors. Faculty in the B.A. Program work closely with their colleagues in the English Education Program to ensure that their students learn what is required for certification and accreditation in literary education.

### **Tracks within the English B.A. Program**

- **Literature and Cultural Studies Track**

This track invites students to study not only the literary history of British and American authors and works, but also how race, gender, sexual orientation, and identity affect our interactions with both traditional and nontraditional literature from around the globe.

- **Pre-Law Studies Track**

This track integrates the study of persuasion, argument, language, and interpretation to prepare students for further graduate training in the legal profession.

- **Writing Studies Track**

Besides creative writing, this track allows students to study language, technical writing, and editing and publishing in both traditional and digital contexts.

### **The English Education (B.S.) Program**

The department's English Education Program enjoys an excellent reputation for preparing secondary English language arts teachers for the challenges of today's classrooms, a reputation that ensures that graduates can land suitable teaching positions, which a majority do. In addition to becoming teachers in Pennsylvania, graduates also teach throughout the wider region, in such states as Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. The program's success is due in part to IUP's Three Step Process for Teacher Certification, which meets Pennsylvania state certification requirements while also augmenting the study of methods and content with professional education courses. This multifaceted preparation helps ensure students' success when they enter the field as novice teachers.

Teaching candidates take a range of English Studies and methods courses from top-notch faculty. In particular, the English Education Program's content-specific methods courses and its capstone methods course help pre-service teachers build connections among knowledge, theory, and practice. An emergent phenomenon in the field are Professional Development Schools (PDS's),

where teaching education programs form innovative partnerships with nearby P-12 schools. As PDS's proliferate, they will provide more clinical experience and thus greater opportunities for candidates to be successful in the first critical years of their teaching careers, and IUP's English Education Program will certainly be involved.