English

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

English – BA, MA, Minor
Linguistics – Minor
Teaching English/Second Language – Certificate
Technical Communication – Certificate

The English Department serves students through courses in writing, in technical communication, in literature, and in linguistics. The aim of the department is to provide students with greater expressive power and understanding and appreciation of literature. The department also develops students’ abilities valuable in the professional and business world and in private life: reading critically, organizing a large body of information, and expressing the results in clear, forceful prose.

The department offers general education courses, courses for elective credit, minors in English and Linguistics, and Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts programs. An English major or minor is valuable preparation for law, for business, for teaching, and for other careers in which organizing and expressing ideas are essential. The department also offers upper-division certificate programs in teaching English as a second language and technical communication. Students interested in any of these programs should write or visit the department office for details.

In cooperation with the School of Education, the English Department prepares undergraduates and graduates for careers in secondary school teaching. Students interested in English teaching careers should contact the Coordinator of English Education (English Department) to learn more about the California single subject credential. English majors who have an interest in teaching at the elementary level are advised to complete concurrently the waiver requirements for Liberal Studies. For more information regarding teaching credential programs, see the School of Education section.

The department supports international education and encourages students to investigate opportunities for overseas study. For further information, see the Study Abroad programs.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).
Provides individuals with specialized training to teach successfully in a wide variety of ESL programs. Both undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in any degree program at Cal Poly may pursue this certificate.

The 30-unit TESL program provides a solid background in theoretical and applied linguistics, cross-cultural communication, second language acquisition, and methods of TESL. The program is designed for two career options:

1. The Post-Secondary/Adult option prepares individuals to teach in college level and adult education programs. Those wishing to teach at the college level are advised that an MA in English or a related field is the usual minimum requirement for full-time positions.

2. The K-12 option prepares individuals having a single or multiple subject credential to teach ESL in elementary and secondary schools.

Technical Communication.
Commercial, academic and governmental organizations employ technical communicators as writers, editors, public relations experts, information designers, documentation and project managers, and as mixed media creators. The technical communicator is, first and foremost, an accomplished writer who produces clear, precise, timely, and effective prose. However, technical communicators also are adept at integrating texts and images into cohesive creations that exist equally well on paper and on the computer screen. Technical communicators write online and print computer documentation, create and manage complex sets of technical specifications, write overviews of scientific and technical processes, and produce a diverse range of documents that are used both by the expert and by the layperson. Technical communicators often serve as translators, interpreting the continually changing language of advanced technology into a language we can all easily understand.

The technical communication program is designed for women and men who desire careers in writing, editing, information design, publications management, and media development. The certificate program is available to Cal Poly students who are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program and is also available through Open University, offered by Cal Poly Continuing Education. This program requires the completion of approximately 30 units of work – roughly the same number...
of credits required for most minors. A current course list and more information about our program are available in the English Department office and at the Technical Communications Program website: http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/techcomm.