

# The English Education Major

Passionate and caring educators foster a love of learning in students and help inspire the next generation of teachers. If you love literature and language and desire to teach, consider majoring in English with a minor in secondary education. PC's degree program provides the English courses you need for subject competence, and the professional training you need for teaching. Plus, it equips you with soft skills that employers and graduate schools value.

Your English professors at PC will model passion for the subject and care for their students. Smaller class sizes mean you'll get to know your classmates and receive individual attention from professors. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

## What You'll Study When You Concentrate in English Education

As an English education student, you develop valuable skills such as analysis, research, and critical reading and thinking. You hone the ability to communicate in speech and writing. And you learn how to prepare and present lessons appropriate for high school English classrooms.

Your degree program, a rigorous combination of English and education courses, totals 73 hours. English curriculum requirements are mostly the same as the basic major, with courses like Studies in Linguistics and three survey courses in American, British or world literature. Instead of three pre-1900 Literature courses, you'll choose one, such as Chaucer or Austenmania. You'll also choose a post-1900 Literature course like Southern Women's Writing or Holocaust Literature. Other required English courses include Adolescent Literature and The Teaching of Composition. You'll then conduct original research on a topic of your choice for your Senior Capstone in English.

Most of your coursework, 40 hours of it, comes from the secondary education curriculum. Lower-level courses include Introduction to Education as well as Meeting the Needs of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students. After your acceptance into the teacher education program, you'll take upper-level courses like Content Area Literacy and Introduction to Special Education. After a series of practicum experiences in local schools, you'll conclude the program with student teaching during your final semester. By then, you should be little more than a Praxis test away from applying for your teaching credential.

## Career Outcomes

The program's emphasis on secondary education enables graduates to teach high school English. Those who pursue an advanced degree also have the opportunity to teach at the college or university level.

According to [PayScale](#), those with a bachelor's degree in secondary English education earn an average salary of \$55,000, as of February 2020.

Eighty-two percent of PC education majors begin their teaching careers right after they graduate. They are well-prepared for the national licensure examinations and experience a high pass rate. Alumni work in rural, urban and suburban areas across the United States, and internationally in places like Thailand and Hong Kong. They teach in both K-12 and higher education. Many go on to become principals, district office administrators and school board members.

No matter your career goal, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, communication and other soft skills employers look for.

## Student Experiences

Whatever your major, PC offers a number of opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

1. **Studying abroad.** PC's English department organizes Maymester trips to a variety of international locations such as Berlin, China, England, Ireland and Prague. Students recently spent their spring break studying literature and creative writing in Paris.
2. **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
3. **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
4. **Internships.** You can intern on campus as a teaching assistant or a literary journal editor. You aren't required to do an internship since the requirement is satisfied by your student teaching.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other outside activities are available to you as an English education student.

1. **Classroom experience.** Education majors gain real-world experience by student teaching.

2. **Professional organization.** As a member of the student chapter of the Palmetto State Teachers Association, you can discuss issues in education with teachers and other students.
3. **Writing Center.** You can work on campus as a tutor and help other students strengthen their writing skills.
4. **Speaker Series.** The English department invites published writers onto campus to speak with students, sit in on classes and give public readings. And former students who continue to write may present works in the Alumni Reading Series.

## Fast Facts

1. Approximately 95 percent of PC educators remain in the teaching profession after three years, compared to the national average of 50 percent.
2. The PC Teacher Education Program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and approved by the South Carolina State Department of Education.
3. In 2017, Emily Grigg '03 taught English and theatre studies in Bangalore, India, as a Fulbright Scholar.
4. More state Professors of the Year – including two English professors – teach at PC than at any other institution in South Carolina.

## Meta Page Description

Presbyterian College's English education program prepares you to teach English at the secondary level and gives you soft skills that employers value.