

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, PHILOSOPHY AND MODERN LANGUAGES

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Department Mission Statement

In English, the Department's mission is to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the development and aesthetic achievement of literature primarily reflecting English and American cultural, linguistic, and historical influences, as well as world literatures. Creative writing and linguistics are additional areas of emphasis for students. The Department's mission includes providing students with the tools necessary to become practiced writers.

In Modern Languages, the Department's mission is to provide students with critical skills in the use of the Spanish language and familiarity with the cultures and literatures of that language, both Peninsular and Latin American. The Department also offers French and other languages as circumstances permit.

In Philosophy, the Department provides students with diverse ethical, philosophical, religious and cultural perspectives.

In all areas the Department seeks to provide excellent instruction and challenging content.

Advising Information

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor each semester to confirm that their plan of study is accurate and complete. If necessary, changes and updates should be made in order to ensure that program requirements can be completed in a timely manner. Faculty advisors work with students to explore appropriate internships, cooperative education placements and/or experiential learning opportunities which will enhance the student's academic program. In addition, advisors provide assistance in selecting elective courses which support the student's interests, career plans and plan of study.

Academic advising services for all freshmen Liberal Arts and Social Sciences majors are provided through the Advising Center on McMullen Hall first floor west. Upon declaring a specific major, Liberal Arts and Social Science majors will be assigned to a faculty advisor in their department for upper-division advising. Although advisors are available to assist students in designing their Plans of Study, students are ultimately responsible for meeting degree requirements.

English

Satisfactory achievement of the student's professional goals depends, in large part, on careful planning. In order to help students majoring in English to develop programs of studies that best reflect their professional goals, the faculty in the Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages requires students to participate in a strong program of academic advisement. The close personal and professional relationships of such a program can strengthen both students and faculty. Certain courses in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts with Teaching Licensure programs have prerequisites, and students should check with their advisors for courses in the catalog with required prerequisites.

By the end of the second year of study, Bachelor's degree candidates should have developed, in consultation with their advisors, a program of studies designed to meet individual goals. In addition, students should supplement requirements in the major

with coursework in related academic disciplines. The student's faculty advisor will help select related courses that best supplement a program of studies.

Some students who major in English continue their professional education beyond the baccalaureate degree. Law school is an example of a professional school which recommends English as an undergraduate major for applicants. Areas of employment open to English graduates with Bachelor of Arts degrees include journalism, public relations, technical writing and editing positions, and other career fields which require the ability to use language effectively. Graduates in Education with majors in English most often enter the teaching profession at the secondary level.

Philosophy

Philosophy and Religious Studies courses are fundamentally inquisitive, interactive, and critical in nature, inviting students to ponder the meaning of life and their place in the larger world using a rich heritage of religious and philosophical thoughts from around the world and through time. Philosophy and Religion courses tend to develop important skills, such as critical thinking, self-expression, inquisitiveness, self-examination, and breadth of perspective. Key topics tend to be both personal and universal.

Philosophy and Religious Studies courses are particularly helpful for those seeking careers in law, business, education, ministry, medicine, social work, and/or those who simply want a richer life experience.

Students seeking positions immediately after college often find that philosophy, combined with another area of expertise, equips them with attitudes and critical skills essential to their careers.

Modern Languages

Modern languages, as currently taught in colleges and universities, take as their province the oral and written tradition and the culture, both old and new, of particular national groups. Culture is an integral part of every modern language course, from elementary to advanced courses in literature, civilization, and business.

Recorded and computerized material and tutorial programs provide the "on location" experience of cultural authenticity via computer access to the world's major newspapers, universities, museums and archives.

The ability to communicate in a language other than one's mother tongue has historically been the mark of an educated and successful person. Rapid communication has made neighbors of distant peoples, and the need for language study is greater than ever before if we intend to participate in the political, economic, scientific and cultural leadership of the planet.

A minor in Spanish is available for those interested in careers in government, companies with overseas branches, and international agencies.

Credit Examinations

Those students who have had previous training in a modern language or who are native speakers of a language other than English may receive credit for their level of proficiency through a credit examination. Depending on proficiency, students may receive from one semester to three years credit in a language. High school study of a modern language may provide immediate college credit to students who have applied themselves in high school.

Upon request, the department will grant credit in a language other than those taught at MSU Billings. Students must provide a qualified interpreter. They must show oral proficiency for first year credit, and generally both oral and reading proficiency for second year credit. This credit is awarded under the LANG prefix. Credit for Native American languages is handled through the Native American Outreach Office.

Prior to graduation, students must enroll in the course for which the credits will be awarded. Students may elect to enroll in the course in the semester after the

challenge exam is taken, or they may enroll for the course in any semester after the successful completion of the challenge exam.

Sequence Course Procedures

Courses in first and second year Spanish and French must be taken in sequence, that sequence being 101, 102, 201, 202.

Study Abroad

The University offers Spanish students the opportunity to live and learn in Spain, Costa Rica and other countries. Other fully accredited summer session, semester, and academic-year abroad programs may be arranged in cooperation with other American colleges and universities. Students should inquire at the departmental office or at the Office of International Studies (LA 700, 406-657-1705).

Internships

Internships (some paid) are available for students of Spanish, and students minoring in Spanish are encouraged to participate in one of these programs.

- English Bachelor of Arts Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/ba-english/>) ☐ Offered Online
- English Teaching Licensure Option Bachelor of Arts Degree (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/ba-english-teaching-licensure-option/>)
- Spanish Bachelor of Arts Degree *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/ba-spanish/>)
- Spanish Teaching Licensure Option Bachelor of Arts Degree *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/ba-spanish-teaching-licensure-option/>)
- English Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/minor-english/>) ☐ Offered Online
- International Studies Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/minor-international-studies/>)
- Philosophy Minor *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/minor-philosophy/>)
- Philosophy Religious Studies Option Minor *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/minor-philosophy-religious-studies-option/>)
- Spanish (K-12) Teaching Minor *Program placed on moratorium* (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/teaching-minor-spanish-k-12/>)
- Spanish Minor (<https://catalog.msubillings.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-social-sciences/department-english-philosophy-modern-languages/minor-spanish/>)