

Archived: September 9, 2021

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

English Honours (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

An Honours in English is a program dedicated to the exploration and critical analysis of literature and language. The study of English enhances overall literacy, including written and oral communication, and information literacies. In addition to historical and genre-specific knowledge about literature and culture, students develop intellectual and practical skills, such as critical and creative thinking, and research methods. The study of English also contributes to citizenship and lifelong learning.

The main advantage of an Honours degree in English is that it will help students to see themselves as professionals in the discipline and to better prepare for graduate or professional programs. The required methods course and the research specialization involved in the capstone project anticipate graduate-level research and funding applications that many will make as they graduate from VIU. The capstone project encourages the student to spend more one-on-one with one or two faculty members. These relationships will strengthen the transition to graduate and professional situations.

Program Outline

Requirements for an Honours

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. requirements as outlined in the Calendar, including Degree English requirements. Students must also fulfill all 1st and 2nd year requirements of the B.A. Major in English, and the courses listed below:

Years 3 and 4

Forty-two credits of English courses numbered 300 or above, including:

- **three credits from Literature and Culture III**
 - ENGL 325 - (Topics in Environmental Literature)
 - ENGL 326 - (Topics in Globalization and Literature)
 - ENGL 327 - (Topics in World Literature)
 - ENGL 328 - (Gender and Sexuality in Literature)
 - ENGL 329 - (Topics in Children's and Young Adult Literature)
 - ENGL 330 - (Topics in Speculative Narrative)
 - ENGL 331 - (Topics in West Coast Literature)
 - ENGL 332 - (Topics in Indigenous Literatures)

- ENGL 333 - (Topics in Post-Colonial Literatures)
- ENGL 334 - (Topics in Canadian Literature)
- ENGL 335 - (Survey of Canadian Literature)
- **six credits from Literature and Criticism III**
 - ENGL 310 - (Topics in Rhetoric)
 - ENGL 312 - (History of Critical Theory)
 - ENGL 314 - (Modern Critical Theory)
- **twelve credits from Literature and Traditions III, as follows:**
 - **three** credits from pre-1700
 - ENGL 300 - (Backgrounds to English Literature)
 - ENGL 340 - (Topics in Medieval Literature)
 - ENGL 342 - (Topics in Renaissance Literature)
 - ENGL 344 - (Topics in Shakespeare)
 - ENGL 346 - (Topics in 17th-Century Literature)
 - **three** credits from 1700-1900
 - ENGL 348 - (Topics in 18th-Century Literature)
 - ENGL 350 - (Topics in 19th-Century Literature)
 - **six** credits from any courses in Literature and Traditions III
- **fifteen additional credits from any category of English 300- or 400-level courses, three credits of which must be complementary to the student's capstone project (ENGL 490), chosen in consultation with the department Chair.**
- ENGL 480 - (Research Methods)
- ENGL 490 - (Capstone Project)

Recommended Electives

Liberal Studies, Creative Writing, History, Media Studies, Philosophy, Women's Studies, Art History, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology.

Completion Requirements

Honours students need an average GPA of 3.67 (A-) on all 3rd and 4th year courses taken within the discipline in order to graduate from an Honours program.

Residency Requirement

Students are expected to complete at least 27 of the 42 required 300- or 400-level credits at Vancouver Island University, including ENGL 480 and ENGL 490. With the approval of the appropriate Dean and under exceptional circumstances, this amount may be reduced.

Admission Requirements

The general requirement for admission is a GPA of at least 3.67 (A-) on the most recent 45 credits of study. Admission is limited and meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Honours program. Students apply after completing 60 credits of study and will submit a written application with writing sample. The written application requires the names of two faculty referees. Students apply through the Program Chair, who will notify the Degree Advisor of successful applications.

Students interested in pursuing this option should consult with the English department Chair for further advice.

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