Mission and Goals

The Department of English at Loyola University Chicago seeks to promote the university’s mission to encourage freedom of inquiry, the pursuit of truth and care for others through teaching, scholarship and service of the highest caliber.

In its teaching, the Department of English seeks to provide students with an education of the highest quality in the English language, in literature written in English and in critical and creative writing, judiciously combining breadth with depth, tradition with contemporaneity. It seeks to attract the best possible students from diverse geographical, professional, racial and ethnic backgrounds; it encourages minority and foreign applicants and those returning to school after an interruption of their academic lives. It encourages students throughout their programs so as to enable them to progress expeditiously to their degrees and to gain the maximum benefit from their experience.

Through the work of its faculty, the Department of English also strives to participate in and contribute to the wider community of scholarship, research and pedagogical theory and practice in the disciplines of literary and critical studies; in creative and critical writing; in comparative literature; in gender, ethnic and cultural studies; in teacher training; and in linguistics.

The Department of English also seeks to serve the larger university and greater Chicago community through public event programming, collaborative projects with secondary schools and other colleges and universities, and general assistance.

Graduate Programs in English

The Department of English’s interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. programs each offer courses across three broad historical areas, with a special emphasis in textual studies

- Maintain a curriculum and examination structure that facilitates the advanced study of literature in English in its cultural context, as experienced in any one of our three broad historical areas and textual studies: Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Nineteenth-Century Studies, Modern Literature and Culture, and Textual Studies and Digital Humanities
- Allow students to learn relevant literary and social history as well as acquire training in careful textual analysis
- Provide students with training in research and bibliographic methods, acquaint them with basic issues in the area of textual criticism, develop their reading and analytical skills, and offer study in the history and theory of literary criticism
- Promote interest in and knowledge about the linguistic contexts in which literary works exist
- Strive by example, precept, and encouragement to enable students to improve their research writing skills, to apply these skills professionally outside the classroom and to become publishing scholars
- Prepare students to become effective teachers, equipping them to teach composition and literature courses at the college, university and advanced secondary-school level, and assisting them to develop their teaching potential through experience tutoring in the Writing Center, teaching composition and assisting in the teaching of literature courses in the department
- Support scholarly development of the faculty and students by promoting teaching and research assistantship programs that bring faculty and students together inside and outside the classroom to work on pedagogical and scholarly issues of mutual interest
- Strive to assist students in finding professional employment that makes effective use of the skills and knowledge acquired in their training, both inside and outside the academic community

Graduate Programs

- English (MA) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/english/english-ma/)
- English (PhD) (https://catalog.luc.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-school/arts-sciences/english/english-phd/)