



"Word-work is sublime... because it is generative; it makes meaning that secures our difference, our human difference—the way in which we are like no other life."— Toni Morrison

Pace University's New York City campus offers a **Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature** with three concentrations: Creative Writing; Literature, Culture, and Media; and Language and Linguistics. As our digital age transforms the nature of work in nearly every field, our English major in the concentration of your choice will prepare you to be versatile and strategic as you pursue your personal and professional goals. Whether your interest lies in creative or professional writing, publishing, media production, teaching, social change work, law, entrepreneurship, marketing, or another creative or analytical field, you will develop vital skills as a writer, reader, thinker, and innovator.

As an English major, you will work with our outstanding faculty who are dedicated teachers, as well as renowned scholars, novelists, poets, playwrights, screenwriters, creative nonfiction writers, and journalists. Drawing on our faculty members' scholarly, creative, and teaching specializations, our nationally recognized approach combines traditional methods of close reading and contextual analysis with projects that engage students in interrogating literary history and its making, exploring the archival record and its absences, and collaborating with community partners to co-create digital and public humanities projects. You will consider how literary texts of the past and present provide a window on issues of identity and social justice in courses that partner with local cultural and service organizations. You will identify the local, national, and transnational dimensions of English language and literary communities—starting with the publishing history of New York City. And you will have the chance to explore language and literature, as well as your own writing, in the context of genre, medium, and media change.

## CREATIVE WRITING CONCENTRATION

Students will engage with literature as they develop their own voices in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, playwriting, and screenwriting.

## LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND MEDIA CONCENTRATION

Students will engage with current and historical literary texts and grapple with their relevance to media change and to the formation of notions of community, identity, and the possibilities for social and political change.

## LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS CONCENTRATION

Students will examine and learn to explain everyday phenomena related to language such as the commonalities across all languages, how new words are formed and adopted while others are rejected, and how language shapes the way we think and conceive the world.

## DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

For more information, contact: **Stephanie Hsu, PhD or Sid Ray, PhD, Department Co-Chairs** [shsu@pace.edu](mailto:shsu@pace.edu) or [gray@pace.edu](mailto:gray@pace.edu)



[www.pace.edu/dyson/english-nyc](http://www.pace.edu/dyson/english-nyc)

## A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MODEL IN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The Pace English major is a nationally recognized model in learning by doing—recently featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Inside Higher Ed*. As an English major, you have the opportunity to pursue award-winning research and creative projects with dedicated one-on-one faculty mentors, and to publish original writing in our literary magazine, *Aphros*, or in the student newspaper, *The Pace Press*. In 2024, we were awarded \$350,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support the creation of dedicated humanities learning spaces and curricular partnerships with local cultural organizations such as American Indian Community House, the Bowery Residents' Committee, South Street Seaport, and others. Recognizing the location of our Lower Manhattan campus on unceded Lenape land near the African Burial Ground, at the convergence of Chinatown, Civic Center, the Financial District, and Seaport, these grants center student participation and community collaboration. As an English major, you will get the chance to learn about the untold stories of the area's previously obscured people, places, and events.

## COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAMS

Students in any of the three undergraduate English Language and Literature BA concentrations may pursue a variety of combined degree programs. These programs allow you to complete your undergraduate and graduate degrees in less time than it would take to pursue each separately.

**BA English Language and Literature / MS in Publishing**

**BA English Language and Literature / MST in Adolescent Education**

**BA English Language and Literature / JD in Law**



## SMALL CLASS SIZES

Your English major classes are all capped at 15, 20, or 25 students, which means you will get a real chance to know your peers and your professors, creating lasting bonds and fostering a deeper educational experience.

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

We offer many opportunities for students to bond together with one another, with faculty, and with our wonderful, vibrant city. As an English major, you will be invited to share your work at student readings and open mics on campus, attend trips to the theater, opera, and other NYC events together with your peers and faculty, and avail yourself of a range of creative and practical workshops, such as how to make a zine and how to write a successful graduate school application.

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE INQUIRY

The Department of English is a campus leader in undergraduate humanities research, with many majors proposing and receiving financial support from the Provost's Office to pursue advanced-level research and creative projects. Recent student projects have included short story collections, poetry chapbooks, television spec scripts, a literary and performance analysis of the first all-Black nineteenth-century theater company in the U.S., a linguistic analysis of the term "BIPOC," and a literary history of queer nightlife in downtown NYC.

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WRITING AWARDS

This annual contest recognizes and encourages the development of literary voices and professional writers. Each year up to \$20,000 in awards are given to recognize excellent writing in multiple genres, including Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Writing for Comics and Graphic Novels, Playwriting, Journalism, Writing on Film, Literary Criticism, and Linguistic and Rhetorical Analysis. The Academy of American Poets Prize (founded by John Ashbery) is also awarded in the Poetry category.

## GUEST SPEAKERS AND DEPARTMENT EVENTS

From National Book Award nominees to *The New Yorker* writers to MacArthur "Genius" Fellows, you will get a chance to listen to and learn from some of the most illustrious writers and thinkers at work today. Recent speakers include: MacArthur Fellow and graphic memoirist Alison Bechdel, MacArthur Fellow and poet Maggie Nelson, National Book Critics Circle award-winning writer Jennifer Wilson, New York School poet John Yau, *The New Yorker* theater critic Vinson Cunningham, National Book Award nominee Rumaan Alam, Senior Editor at Simon and Schuster Yahdon Israel, and more.

## BABBLE LAB

Through our relationship with Babble Lab, a center for digital humanities pedagogy and research at Pace, we offer a variety of opportunities to help students develop skills with computational languages and digital tools that will enable them to engage in humanistic inquiry in new ways.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

Recent Pace English graduates have gone on to great professional success in a number of fields including publishing, journalism, non-profits, libraries, media, law, education, and more. Our program prepares a diverse array of students for durable and flexible professional success through its emphasis on storytelling, creativity, and critical thinking. Our graduates often return to Pace to mentor current students. A short list of our recent graduates' professional positions and success include:

- Senior Editor, Simon and Schuster
- Associate Editor, HarperCollins Publishers
- Digital Content Manager, HBO
- New York Times-reviewed author of acclaimed memoir
- Associate Production Manager, NBC News
- Junior Research Analyst, FoxSports
- Award-winning feminist narrative video game designer
- Web Writer and Editor, Weill-Cornell Hospitals
- Editorial Assistant, Scholastic Publishing
- Account Manager, Araca Group Theatrical Productions
- Digital Operations Specialist, Columbia University School of Journalism
- Marketing and Publicity Associate Manager, Hachette Books
- Admission to graduate study at universities such as: Georgetown University, University of Virginia, UC-Irvine, CUNY Grad Center, Trinity College, Northwestern University, and Columbia University, for degrees such as, Master in Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts in Rhetoric, PhD in Literature, Master of Science in Library Science, Juris Doctor in Law, and more.

