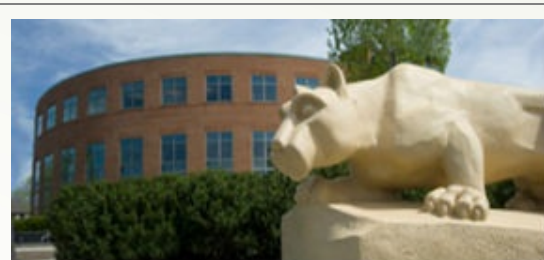


## Certification Program in Secondary Education: English

The certification program in Secondary Education English is designed for an individual who holds a baccalaureate degree and wants to become certified to teach English in Pennsylvania secondary schools (grades 7-12). If you are an undergraduate (Bachelor's Degree) student who is interested in becoming an English teacher, you can do so by enrolling in the [English major](#). The program is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Students who successfully complete all requirements will be recommended for the Secondary English Instructional I teaching certificate. Course work is required in both English and education. This program is recognized by the [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\)](#) and the [National Council of Teachers of English \(NCTE\)](#).



### Contact

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Content reviewed and approved Wed Jun 29, 2016 11:21:19 am



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**PennState**  
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral  
Sciences and Education**



**Certification Program in  
Secondary Education:  
English**

## Curriculum

### Program Notes

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses for certification; however, a 3.0 grade-point average is required to be eligible for student teaching.

Before being placed for student teaching, students must demonstrate writing competency through preparing a writing portfolio. Information is available in the School of Humanities office.

### Program Requirements

The English certification program requires students to take English and education courses. All [courses required for certification](#), including an intensive field experience, must be completed with a grade of C or better prior to student teaching. Please send your undergraduate transcripts to the Certification Officer, [Joel Geary](mailto:Joel Geary), at [jdq24@psu.edu](mailto:jdq24@psu.edu), in order for the program adviser to determine which courses have already been completed that would satisfy the requirements.

## Testimonials

After working for a corporation for a few years, I decided to take a leap of faith and pursue my dream of becoming an English teacher through Penn State Harrisburg. Looking back, I cannot be more pleased with or proud of my decision. Penn State Harrisburg's English education program is rigorous, challenging, and requires grit. My professors were supportive, provided frequent individual attention and guidance, and helped me to realize my full potential. The harder I worked, the more opportunities were afforded. Penn State Harrisburg (and Schreyer Honors College) opened up doors for me to explore many of my own interests and to develop as a scholar. I will remain in contact with many of my professors and colleagues because they continue to have a positive impact on my teaching today.



Hannah Mackay

## Courses Overview

### Education Course Requirements (32 Credits)

- C I 280 (GH) INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING ENGLISH TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (3).
- EDUC 313 FIELD OBSERVATION/PARTICIPATION (2)
- EDUC 314 LEARNING THEORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES (3) (EDUC 313 and EDUC 314 must be taken concurrently and are offered fall term only.)
- EDUC 315W SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS IN EDUCATION (3) (Offered spring term only) (Certification students must enroll in the section reserved for prospective secondary teachers.)
- EDUC 322 ADOLESCENT LITERATURE AND DEVELOPMENTAL READING (3) (Offered spring term only)
- EDUC 416 TEACHING SECONDARY ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES (3) (Offered fall term only)
- EDUC 458 BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS (3). Prerequisite: admission to Teacher Education program.
- EDUC 459 STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS (3). Prerequisite: admission to Teacher Certification program or Approval of program.
- EDUC 490 STUDENT TEACHING (12)

### English Course Requirements (33 Credits) (Effective Fall 2011)

- Undergraduate Composition (6 credits)
- American Literature Survey (3 credits) or British Literature Survey
- ENGL 200W INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL READING (3)
- ENGL 444 SHAKESPEARE (3) (Offered spring term only)
- ENGL 470 RHETORICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE (3) (Offered fall term only)
- 300 - 400 Level American Literature (at least 3 credits)
- 300 - 400 Level British Literature (at least 3 credits)
- World Literature (3 credits)
- 2 additional literature courses (6 credits)
- Students must also successfully complete a writing portfolio (2)

For a list of courses, [visit the University Bulletin](#).

## Program Requirements for Admission

An applicant must present a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 credits (approximately).

### How to Enroll

Enrollment in this program requires admission to Penn State's Graduate School and to the program in Teaching and Curriculum in the College of Education.

To enroll, complete the online application within the [Graduate School Admissions Portal](#).

- Follow the onscreen instructions to log in.
- Select the appropriate semester of enrollment.
- For *Enrollment Type*, select "Degree Admission." (Certification or Endorsement programs do not award a degree; however, applicants must select "Degree Admission" from the dropdown menu.)
- Answer the question about prior coursework at Penn State and then follow the prompts provided.
- For *Campus*, Choose "Harrisburg" and then select "Teaching and Curriculum" from the *Major* list.
- Select "Pennsylvania Educators Level I Certification" from the *Degree* list. (Applicants who hold PDE Instructional I or II certification already will have their status corrected by PDE.)
- For *Option*, select the appropriate option.
- Choose a semester.

If you experience difficulty using our online application, please contact:

Janet Althouse [ja25@psu.edu](mailto:ja25@psu.edu) 717-948-6213

### Application Process

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- a completed online application;
- two copies of official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended;
- [completed clearance forms](#);
- an application fee.

**Test Requirements:** Post-baccalaureate applicants do not need to take the Basic Skills tests that are required by Bachelor's degree students; however, all English certification students must take the Praxis test #5038 prior to earning Pennsylvania certification. [Review this page to see what tests you need to take.](#)

### Other Questions

If you have additional questions, please contact Graduate Admissions, 717-948-6250, or the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, 717-948-6213.