

# 2024-2025 English BA Annual Report

## Overview

This year was the first full year with a new director of Undergraduate Studies, Adam R. Pope. During the year, the BA program successfully supported the relaunch of the honors society Sigma Tau Delta and built out a multi-media production space for undergraduates in the department. We also started efforts to build social media outreach and to renovate our website and new student materials and experiences to support incoming students and especially first-generation students. Finally, our department vice chair has successfully submitted a revision to major that streamlines the early years of the coursework to allow for easier transfers into the major by students who have existing coursework or are returning students.

Our main focus this year was attempting to identify what we needed to focus on in the coming two years of the current director's term. We hosted a handful of campus events and some coordinated efforts with Sigma Tau Delta. We have also started work on a rebranding of the major and the department's undergraduate web presence supported by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Our goal for the coming summer and fall is to build out these support materials and to focus on supporting Sigma Tau Delta's events.

We have faced some challenges with the transition to Workday Student as well as ongoing challenges with students getting timely access to core area courses such as Introduction to Shakespeare as we have limited staffing and have been unable to attain a replacement hire for Dr. Joe Candido. With English majors as well as English Education majors requiring the course for either direct degree requirements or to satisfy area coverage requirements, the course often has large bursts of enrollment demand as students get hours complete. As we are unable to replace Candido, one major challenge I see in the coming years will be maintaining enough course coverage to meet the Education and English major needs once our current VAP's position is finished.

In the next academic year, we are positioned as this year closes to rebuild the major's web, print, and social media support, provide students with more opportunities to feel a sense of belonging in the department, and to integrate more of our tenure-track faculty into the undergraduate student events hosted by Sigma Tau Delta. We also hope as we launch the revision of the major to unveil a narrative of the department and our offerings, present since the very first year of the Arkansas Industrial University. To support this, the director is collecting histories of the department and working to start work on oral histories from faculty members with the longest tenures in the program and those who are recently retired.



## **Enrollment Breakdown**

The English BA had a total of 235 majors in the spring. The breakdown per major was as follow:

- 135 in Creative Writing
- 66 in Rhetoric and Writing
- 34 in Topical Studies

In addition to these majors, the English department supports 44 English minors and 22 Rhetoric and Writing minors alongside another 31 students who are supported by our curriculum in the English Education major.