

## Institutional Effectiveness Report 2018-19

**Program:** English BA

**College and Department:** College of Arts & Science - English

**Contact:** Linda Null

**Mission:** The English BA curriculum is designed to improve students' skills in writing, critical reading, and thinking; to enrich their cultural experience; and to prepare them for all professions requiring a high level of expression, imagination, and intellectual activity, including creative writing, editing, teaching, law, politics, and management.

### **Program Goals:**

PG 1: Enrich English major through departmental life and cultural opportunities.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate the capacity to write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically.

SLO 2: Students will demonstrate understanding of historical traditions in British and American literature.

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate understanding of how written and spoken language expresses diverse cultural experiences.

### **Assessment Methods:**

*PG 1: Departmental life and cultural opportunities*

1. Annual Report - Departmental Life & Cultural Opportunities

The department yearly collects information from annual faculty effort reports as well as summarizing the highlights of general department accomplishments during the year. Information includes curricular and co-curricular activities offered.

2. Tracking Sheet of student participation in English Program Events and Initiatives

*SLO 1: Write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically*

1. California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST)

The California Critical Thinking Skills Test is administered in the capstone course, English 4995-Senior Colloquium. The rubric was used to assess

presentations in the capstone in Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, and Spring 19.

Threshold of acceptability: 85% of students will score Excellent or Very Good in each category of evaluation

3. Senior Exit Interviews

The Exit Interviews, which are both written and oral, provide students the opportunity to discuss the extent to which they have fulfilled Student Outcomes and to make suggestions for improving the English BA program.

*SLO 2: Historical traditions in British and American literature*

1. ETS Major Field Achievement Test:

The ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Literature provides a mean score but also sub scores in the areas of Literature 1900 and Earlier, Literature 1901 and Later, Literary

- Center Stage literary visit - The department hosted a Center Stage event with Teju Cole, one of the leading voices in African-American fiction, who presented from his fiction and from his work as New York Times photography editor (October 18, 2018). He was introduced by Brian Williams. After the evening event, about a dozen faculty and students shared dinner with the visiting author, an intimate and exciting conclusion the day's events. A second Center State literary visit occurred on February 2, 2019, when Coleman Burks and Eugene Frieson presented an evening with Rumi.
- "Bird is the Word" - Our in-house literary arts series featured visits by Thaddeus Rutkowski, novelist and creative nonfiction writer, author of six books, and winner of the Asian-American Writer's Workshop Member's Choice Award, October 27, 2018; readings January 31, 2018, by department poet Becca Klaver and department chair and fiction writer Ted Pelton, reading from their published and recent work; a visit by California-based literary artist Jenniffer Tamayo, a queer, migrant, formerly undocumented LatinX poet, essayist, and performer, who read from her work in print and staged participatory performances with students and faculty, March 1, 2018. Both Rutkowski and Tamayo did afternoon workshops prior to their performances, where students from across campus were invited to create their own works in response to prompts from the visiting artists.
- The Tech Players, in cooperation with the Theatre concentration in English, and after of two years of productions staged at various locations on campus and in the city of Cookeville, presented a full season of theatre at the renovated Backdoor Playhouse. November 9-18, 2018, Theatre professor Mark Harry Creter directed the musical, *Chicago*, to sellout crowd.

SLO 1: Write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically

This is the most recent available data for the California Critical Thinking Skills Test.

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*	Mean	N*
ENGL	14.5	10	16.4	19	15.29	21	18.0/78	17
TTU total	16.9	1485	-	-	17.55	1260	16.8/76	1515
CCTST	17.1	-	16.2	-	-	-	15.4/74	

ENGL 4995 Oral Presentation Rubric

Semester	% Excellent or Good
Spring 2016	89%
Spring 2017	72%
Spring 2018	87%

SLO 2: Historical traditions in British and American literature

Major Field Test Results

	Mean Percent Correct	3 semester average
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FY 2018 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2017 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2016 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2015 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2014 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2013 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 2012 (n=11) 76.0%  
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 FY 1990 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1989 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1988 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1987 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1986 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1985 (n=11) 76.0%  
 FY 1984 (n=11) 76.0%

**Modifications for Improvement:**

*SLO 1: Write and speak clearly, read perceptively, and think critically*

The English Department focuses on critical thinking and creative inquiry because those concepts are the topics of recent QEPs. The chart below shows the number of faculty with QEP grants since 2016-2017. Faculty who receive these grants must have special training in incorporating critical thinking/creative inquiry into their courses.

2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
2	2	4

Student performance on the CCTST improved over the last year. The English Department will continue to apply for and implement QEP courses.

**Appendices**

1. English BA Curriculum Map
2. ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium rubric

## Appendix 1: English BA Curriculum Map

Learning Outcomes	Required Courses
	3000 Introduction to English Methods &

Appendix 2: ENGL 4995 Senior Colloquium rubric

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
<b>Organization/ Content</b>						