



## DISCIPLINE DESCRIPTION

# ENGLISH

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### ACTIVE TEACHING DISCIPLINES

For administrative use only; please do *not* edit federal NCES information below.

CIP Code	Title	Definition
23.0101	English Language and Literature, General.	A general program that focuses on the English language, including its history, structure and related communications skills; and the literature and culture of English-speaking peoples.
23.1302	Creative Writing.	A program that focuses on the process and techniques of original composition in various literary forms such as the short story, poetry, the novel, and others. Includes instruction in technical and editorial skills, criticism, and the marketing of finished manuscripts.

Note: More information on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) taxonomy is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/>.

The qualifications described below represent commonly accepted good practices for teaching in the discipline(s) represented in the unit.<sup>1</sup>

#### Section 1. General description of the unit, including academic programs and course offerings.<sup>2</sup>

The Department of English offers a baccalaureate degree program in English, with opportunities for specialization in creative writing, literature, and technical communication; a Master of Arts degree program in English, with opportunities for specialization in technical communication and literary, cultural, and textual studies; a Master of Fine Arts degree program in creative writing; and a range of undergraduate minors and undergraduate and graduate certificates in such disciplines as creative writing, digital humanities, editing and publishing, linguistics, literature, medieval and Renaissance studies, professional writing, and technical communication. The department also offers courses in support of the College of Arts and Humanities' doctoral degree program in texts and technology.

**Section 2. Qualifying degree(s) for each discipline taught in the unit.<sup>3</sup>**

*A terminal degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels.<sup>4</sup>*

**English Language and Literature**

The research doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy) with a major in English or a related field (e.g., literature; comparative literature; professional, business, technical, and scientific writing; rhetoric and composition; texts and technology) represents the terminal degree in the field.

**Creative Writing**

The Master of Fine Arts degree with a major in creative writing or the research doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy) with a major in English or a related field with an emphasis or demonstrated scholarly activity in creative writing represents the terminal degree in the field.

**Section 3. Broadly related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the unit.**

*Specialization qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline (typically five or more courses on distinct topics).*

N/A

**Section 4. Selectively related discipline(s) for each discipline taught in the unit.**

*Specialization qualifies a faculty member to teach a restricted set of courses in the teaching discipline (typically four or fewer courses on distinct topics).*

Faculty members with a degree in any of the following disciplines may be qualified to teach courses related to their area of specialization, according to the level of their degree (master’s for undergraduate, doctoral for graduate):

- Cultural studies
- Critical theory and analysis
- Digital communication and media
- Linguistics, literacy, and language studies

**Section 5. Justification for use of faculty members with “other” teaching qualifications and additional information.<sup>5</sup>**

The department considers other teaching qualifications either in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials on a case-by-case basis. This is acceptable in special cases in which a faculty member’s exceptional industry experience, research, or other qualifications can be documented, and in which those qualifications are directly applicable to the course or courses being taught.

1. The unit chair or director, in consultation with unit faculty members, is responsible for identifying and articulating commonly accepted good practices in each of the unit’s teaching disciplines and for providing appropriate justification as needed. In the case of an emerging discipline for which common collegiate practice has not yet been established, a compelling case must be made, as necessary, to substantiate the claims presented.

2. Please provide a general description of the unit’s course and program offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels (e.g., degree and certificate programs, minors, unit contributions to interdisciplinary core courses). This section may also be used to provide other pertinent information about the unit and the discipline(s) it represents (e.g., discipline accreditation, faculty research emphases).

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**3.** For each discipline taught in the unit, please list those degrees that are regarded by the respective disciplinary community as terminal degrees in the discipline and thus qualify a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of that discipline at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In most fields, a terminal degree is the commonly accepted highest degree in the given field of study. In such instances, the terminal degree is usually considered to be the academic (or research) doctorate (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy). However, some academic fields have, through custom, recognized terminal degrees that are not doctorates (e.g., Master of Fine Arts). Note that terminal degrees in other disciplines may also be appropriate for teaching in the discipline, but such credentials should be listed as broadly or selectively related degrees, as appropriate.

**4.** A nonterminal master's degree in the teaching discipline qualifies a faculty member to teach throughout the broad scope of the teaching discipline at the undergraduate level but not at the graduate level.

**5.** Please use this section to provide justification that helps to make the case for special circumstances that apply to the unit, including the use of faculty members qualified to teach by "other" means. Typically, the statements provided in this section should be of a general nature and should not address specific individuals. (Justification for specific individuals is typically handled separately during the teaching certification process.) Please cite appropriate authorities as needed to justify the unit's practices (e.g., discipline accreditation guidelines, governmental regulations).

When a faculty member cannot be qualified to teach on the basis of academic credentials (i.e., degrees, coursework) alone, qualifications other than academic credentials (or combined with academic credentials) that are appropriate for teaching particular courses may be taken into consideration. Such consideration of other teaching qualifications in conjunction with or in lieu of academic credentials must be made on a case-by-case basis. These cases should be exceptional, and the evidence provided of other demonstrated competencies and achievements must be compelling. They should also show significant evidence of professional progress as related to the faculty member's teaching assignment.