

Write a senior-year thesis on a topic of your choosing under the tutelage of a knowledgeable professor. Graduate with academic distinction.

Hello, junior English majors! The department invites you to apply for admission to the 2023-24 English Honors Program.

Do you want to get your teeth into something intellectually demanding, working one-on-one with a faculty member from the English department? Do you enjoy writing, and want to experience the rigors of a long academic project? Do you like the idea of belonging to a small group of writers who can help you develop your ideas and keep you motivated?

Writing a thesis is a great way to hone your research skills and ready yourself for the demands of graduate school or the working world.

Successful candidates will enroll in the fall 2023 Honors seminar on research methods and thesis writing (ENG 4040), and begin drafting their project early in the semester. They will spend spring 2024 completing the thesis, working individually with one faculty member (ENG 4250). Each semester in the Honors program carries 3 credits and counts as an English major elective.

- *The thesis is 40-50 pages in length; it receives a letter grade
- *Classwork for the fall semester also receives a letter grade
- *Students who complete both parts of the program, and earn an A minus or above on the thesis, will graduate from the department with special Honors

Please note that we get off to a very prompt start. Honors students are asked to identify their area of study, and to approach a faculty member to advise them, before they leave for the summer. Admission to the program depends both on academic record and the student's having an area of interest that matches the expertise of available faculty.

Sample topics from previous Honors classes:

- *Railways, modernity, and Victorian fiction
- *Virginia Woolf and personhood
- *Nancy Drew and feminism
- *Latinx narrative and English-Spanish relations
- *Shakespeare, film, and disability
- *Homer, English translation, and masculinity

Application Instructions

Email the following to the English Department engldept@gwu.edu by **5:00 pm on Friday, February 17th, 2023**. Applicants will hear back before spring break.

- 250-word statement of interest (Word/PDF attachment): What kinds of ideas do you have for your thesis? What professor would you like to work with? [Please note: before sending in your application, you should email your chosen professor and ask whether s/he is potentially willing and able to work with you.]

- List of English classes and grades thus far. A minimum 3.50 grade-point average in the major is required for consideration.
- Name of English faculty member who knows your work (may be the same professor, or another)
- A graded paper of any length, including the comments (written for an English course) Questions? Email engldept@gwu.edu