Bachelor of Arts in Literary Studies

Great works of literature do more than entertain our minds; they record cultures and explain to future generations what it meant to be human in the writer’s time. Authors in literary circles are traditionally considered keepers of the world’s stories.

Careers in Literary Studies

Graduates with a degree in literary studies enjoy careers in journalism, advertising or public relations, publishing, editing, grant writing, translating, teaching or working for a nonprofit business organization. Others continue to graduate school or law school. Students may also be certified to teach high school or middle school through the UT Dallas Teacher Development Center.

The University’s Career Center is an important resource for students pursuing postgraduate employment. Licensed counselors are available to provide strategies for mastering job interviews, writing professional cover letters and resumes and connecting with campus recruiters, among other services.

High School Preparation

To major in literary studies, it may be helpful to complete four units of language arts, including at least one unit of writing skills and three units of a single foreign language. Students may also want to take one or more Advanced Placement (AP) English courses in high school. Classes in creative writing may offer further preparation for a successful academic career in literary studies.

Literary Studies at UT Dallas

Students who complete the major in literary studies receive a thorough grounding in literary ideas and methods, as well as literatures of different periods and cultures, including literature in translation. Courses in this major are divided into the following groups: literary genres, English and American literature, translated literature and general literature courses. By selecting courses from a variety of these categories, students are able to combine courses in criticism and interpretation, in writing and translation and in linguistics and languages. Students may also be certified to teach English and/or history and/or social studies through the University’s Teacher Development Center.

Honors Thesis and Fast-Track

The School of Arts and Humanities (A&H) honors thesis offers the opportunity for advanced creative and scholarly work and recognition. To earn A&H honors, students must graduate with:

- A minimum of 30 graded, upper-division semester credit hours at UT Dallas.
- At least 12 hours of upper-division courses in the student’s major with a GPA of 3.80 in those courses.
- The completion of an honors thesis or project evaluated by two faculty members with a grade of at least B+.

The School of Arts and Humanities emphasizes education that seeks and creates connections, combining critical with creative thought, theory with practice, and arts and humanities with other fields of knowledge. The program’s goal is to foster in students intense curiosity informed by rigorous attention and the ability not only to solve challenging problems but also to communicate the process and importance of the solution.

Exceptionally well-qualified Arts and Humanities undergraduates who meet the requirements for admission to graduate school should consider the Fast-Track program, which allows them to begin work on an A&H master’s degree before graduation. Qualified seniors may take up to 12 credit hours of approved A&H graduate courses during their senior year, which will apply to their undergraduate degree plans.

For more information regarding Fast Track, visit utdallas.edu/ah/fasttrack.
School of Arts and Humanities

The School of Arts and Humanities prepares students for the changes they will face in a media-rich 21st century. By connecting the visual and performing arts with the humanities (philosophy, literature, history), students learn how to think creatively as well as critically. More than 50 full-time faculty members, many of whom are internationally recognized scholars and performers, provide quality instruction on topics ranging from the history of the Holocaust to the world of Harry Potter.

Degrees Offered

Bachelor of Arts: Historical studies, literary studies, philosophy, visual and performing arts

Master of Arts: Art history, history, humanities, aesthetic studies, history of ideas, studies in literature, Latin American studies

Doctor of Philosophy: Humanities, aesthetic studies, history of ideas, studies in literature

Minors Offered

If your academic focus leads you elsewhere at UT Dallas, but you would still like to pursue studies in the School of Arts and Humanities, the following minors are available:

- Art history
- Asian studies
- Communication
- Creative writing
- Dance
- Film Studies
- History
- Literature
- Medical and scientific humanities
- Music
- Performing arts
- Philosophy
- Spanish and Hispanic area studies
- Theatre
- Visual arts

Additional Facts

- Twenty-two faculty members have been awarded prestigious fellowships, including those from the Guggenheim, Fulbright, Alexander S. Onassis and Woodrow Wilson foundations. Others are recipients of the Füst Literary Award, as well as awards from the National Endowments for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- The school’s centers further enhance students’ educational experience by bringing the concept of globalism to campus, by bringing world events into focus through research and by encouraging innovation and creativity.

Contact Information

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