

INFORMATION ABOUT
**APPLYING TO THE
ENGLISH
HONOURS PROGRAM**

BENEFITS
REQUIREMENTS
PROCEDURES
CONTACTS

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Why do an Honours Degree?

Our Honours programs (Concentrated or Combined) give you the best undergraduate education we offer:

- ▶ intensive seminars of no more than 20 students
- ▶ high academic expectations
- ▶ specialized courses on topics related to faculty members' research
- ▶ opportunities to conduct independent research, including a 'capstone' essay supervised one-on-one by a faculty advisor if ENGL is your primary Honours subject

Honours degrees are required for most graduate programs in English. An honours degree is also an advantage for applications to professional programs such as education, law, and medicine.

When Should You Apply?

- ▶ The best time to apply is **at the end of your second or the beginning of your third year.**
- ▶ You should have completed at least **6-9 credit hours in upper-level ENGL or CRWR courses** (2000-level or above).
- ▶ You need to have earned **an average of B+ or better** (an average GPA of at least 3.3) in these courses.
 - ▶ If you are not sure how to calculate this, or if you have other questions about your eligibility to apply, reach out to the Honours advisor or the English Department office for assistance (click [here](#) for contact information).

Consulting the Academic Calendar

Because degree and program requirements are frequently updated, it is important to check the official university calendar to be sure you have the most recent information.

NAVIGATING THE CALENDAR:

- ▶ start at academiccalendar.dal.ca
- ▶ select the Undergraduate Calendar, then Arts & Social Sciences
- ▶ select English or Creative Writing from the list of programs on the right side of the page
- ▶ from these program pages you can find detailed information about requirements, area groupings, and course descriptions

What Are the Requirements for Concentrated Honours in English?

- ▶ 54-66 credit hours in ENGL above the 1000 level
- ▶ at least 18 credit hours in ENGL above the 2000 level
- ▶ 1 or more courses from at least 7 of the Area Groupings, including 4 from Areas 1-6 (see separate list of Area Groupings)
- ▶ 15 credit hours in ENGL at the 4000 level (including ENGL 4900.03)
- ▶ ENGL 4901.00 (Honours Essay, zero credit hours)

Always check the current **Dalhousie Calendar** in case the requirements have changed and our website has yet to be updated.

Students must also satisfy all of the general BA requirements and Honours requirements set by the University and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

What Are the Requirements for Combined Honours in ENGL & another program?

- ▶ 66-84 credit hours above the 1000 level in the two Honours subjects (30-48 in each)
- ▶ at least 18 credit hours above the 2000 level in each subject
- ▶ 1 or more courses from at least 4 of the Area Groupings, including 2 from Areas 1-6 (see separate list of Area Groupings)
- ▶ 9 credit hours in ENGL at the 4000 level (including ENGL 4900.03 *if* ENGL is the primary subject)
- ▶ ENGL 4901.00 (Honours Essay, zero credit hours), *if* ENGL is the primary subject

Always check the current **Dalhousie Calendar** in case the requirements have changed and the website has yet to be updated.

Students must also satisfy any specific requirements for their second subject, and all of the general BA requirements and Combined Honours requirements set by the University and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

What Are the CRWR Requirements for Combined Honours?

Creative Writing cannot be the primary Honours subject.

A Combined Honours program in ENGL & CRWR must satisfy the overall requirements already indicated, including a minimum of 30 credit hours in CRWR above the 1000 level.

Specific requirements for the CRWR portion of the degree are:

- ▶ at least 6 credit hours in CRWR at the 2000 level
- ▶ at least 12 credit hours in CRWR at the 3000 level
- ▶ at least 6 credit hours in CRWR at the 4000 level

For students in a combined ENGL & CRWR Honours program, the capstone essay can include a creative component.

Students must also satisfy all of the general BA requirements and Combined Honours requirements set by the University and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Detailed information about CRWR courses and requirements can be found [here](#).

*Always check the current **Dalhousie Calendar** in case the requirements have changed and the website has yet to be updated.*

Honours Capstone Seminar & Essay

All Concentrated Honours and Combined Honours students whose **primary** subject is English must take ENGL 4900.03, the Honours Capstone Seminar, as part of their normal course load during the Fall term of their final year.

- ▶ ENGL 4900.03 counts as one of the required 4000-level seminars.
- ▶ A key component of ENGL 4900.03 is developing, drafting, and presenting an initial version of the capstone essay, which is completed in the Winter term as ENGL 4901.00.

During the winter term of their final year, all Honours and Combined Honours students whose primary subject is English complete their capstone essay, expanding on their work for ENGL 4900.03, as ENGL 4901.00 (zero credit hours).

Students in Combined Honours whose primary subject is not English, students in the Major program in English, and students in the Double Major program in English do not take ENGL 4900.03 or write the ENGL capstone essay. Combined Honours students must complete the requirements for their primary subject.

Area Groupings

- ▶ GROUP 1: Literary Theory and Criticism
- ▶ GROUP 2: Medieval
- ▶ GROUP 3: Renaissance / Early Modern
- ▶ GROUP 4: Restoration & Eighteenth Century
- ▶ GROUP 5: Romantics
- ▶ GROUP 6: Victorian
- ▶ GROUP 7: Modern British
- ▶ GROUP 8: American
- ▶ GROUP 9: Canadian
- ▶ GROUP 10: Postcolonial / World Literature
- ▶ GROUP 11: Cultural Studies / Popular Culture
- ▶ GROUP 12: Writing / Creative Writing / Language

*The courses included in the area groupings are regularly updated; check the current **Dalhousie Calendar** for the most recent lists.*

How to Apply

- ▶ Contact the current [Honours Advisor](#) to discuss the program (optional but recommended)
- ▶ Download and complete the Honours application form, available [here](#)
 - ▶ On the form, list all the courses you have completed or are currently registered in, in chronological order, including the course code *and* the credit hours for each one (for example, ENGL 2002.03 or KING 1001.12)
 - ▶ Also list all of the courses you plan to take, making sure that they will satisfy all of the program requirements (see [here](#) for details)
 - ▶ As it is not possible to predict or guarantee which courses will be offered in future years, you can use placeholders showing the level and credit hours (for example, ENGL 4XXX.03 or CRWR 3XXX.03)
- ▶ Email your completed application form to the Honours Advisor for review*
- ▶ If the Honours Advisor approves your application, they will sign it and forward it to the Registrar's Office

*If you are applying for **Combined Honours**, including in ENGL and CRWR, advisors for both programs must review, approve, and sign your application.

REGISTERING FOR 4000-LEVEL SEMINARS

- ▶ Until courses actually begin, **individual instructors do not grant permissions** for their seminars; the process is centralized through the English Department office.
- ▶ Before registration opens for the coming year, eligible students are asked to submit a list of seminars they hope to take.
- ▶ Once responses are collated and permissions are granted, students are notified about which seminars they can register for.
 - Priority is given to Honours and Combined Honours students entering their fourth year who need to meet their program requirements in order to graduate.
 - Consideration is also given to balancing enrolments across seminars.
 - Due to these factors and to space constraints, students may not initially receive permission for their first choice of seminars. It may be possible to make some changes after the initial round of permissions and registrations is complete.
 - Majors students can request permission to take 4000-level seminars; their admission depends on availability.

For further information or advising, please reach out to the Honours advisor or the English Department office for assistance (click [here](#) for contact information).