

10KV5735BALA: ENGLISH: TOPICS IN ENGLISH, BALAS

In Workflow

1. U Program Review (eastuby@illinois.edu; mhazen@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)
2. Gen Ed Review (menewell@illinois.edu)
3. 1499-ENGL Head (rwb@illinois.edu)
4. KV Dean (las-catalog@illinois.edu)
5. University Librarian (clairest@illinois.edu; tteper@illinois.edu)
6. COTE Programs (suzannel@illinois.edu)
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15. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; nnagy2@illinois.edu; bv4@illinois.edu; jswen@illinois.edu)

Approval Path

1. Tue, 14 Jul 2026 18:37:15 GMT
Brianna Vargas-Gonzalez (bv4): Approved for U Program Review
2. Fri, 17 Jul 2026 19:51:42 GMT
Melissa Steinkoenig (menewell): Approved for Gen Ed Review
3. Sat, 18 Jul 2026 15:07:21 GMT
Robert Barrett (rwb): Approved for 1499-ENGL Head
4. Mon, 20 Jul 2026 19:59:22 GMT
Melissa Reedy (murray): Approved for KV Dean
5. Mon, 20 Jul 2026 21:55:32 GMT
Tom Teper (tteper): Approved for University Librarian
6. Tue, 21 Jul 2026 01:46:29 GMT
Suzanne Lee (suzannel): Approved for COTE Programs
7. Mon, 17 Aug 2026 14:27:48 GMT
Brooke Newell (bsnewell): Approved for Provost

History

1. Aug 13, 2019 by Amy Elli (amyelli)
2. Sep 10, 2025 by Brooke Newell (bsnewell)

Deactivation Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 01 Jul 2026 19:20:33 GMT

Viewing: 10KV5735BALA : English: Topics in English, BALAS

Last approved: Wed, 10 Sep 2025 13:44:03 GMT

Last edit: Wed, 26 Aug 2026 15:23:58 GMT

Changes proposed by: Robert Barrett

Proposal Type:

Concentration (ex. Dietetics)

This proposal is for a:

Revision

Phase Down/Elimination

Administration Details

Official Program Name

English: Topics in English, BALAS

Sponsor College

Liberal Arts & Sciences

Sponsor Department

English

Sponsor Name

Justine Murison ~~Robert Barrett~~

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College Contact

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If additional stakeholders other than the Sponsor and College Contacts listed above should be contacted if questions during the review process arise, please list them here.

Melissa Reedy, murray@illinois.edu (LAS Assistant Director Course & Cir Dvt)

Robert Barrett, rw@illinois.edu (Associate Head, English Department)

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Catalog Term

Desired Effective Catalog Term

Fall 2027

Effective Catalog

2027-2028

Proposal Title

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Eliminate the Concentration in Topics in English in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Are there other related proposals that should be considered simultaneously with this one? If yes, please list the program keys and/or titles. Consider Majors, Minors, Concentrations & Joint Programs in your department. Please know that this information is used administratively to move related proposals through workflow efficiently and together as needed. Format your response like the following "This BS proposal (key 567) is related to the Concentration A proposal (key 145)"

This BALAS (key 56) is related to the English BALAS proposal (key 23), the English: English Concentration proposal (key 28), the English: English General Concentration proposal (key 1425), and the English: English Teaching Concentration proposal (key 850).

Program Justification

Provide a brief description, using a numbered item list, of the proposed changes to the program.

Provide a list of numbered items of what changed and why each change was necessary.

1. We are proposing to eliminate the Topics in English concentration. The students who selected the English major's Topics in English concentration were pleased with their program of study, but they were few: despite active promotion by the department advisors, only 41 of the 566 majors (approximately 7%) who graduated between Fall 2020 and Spring 2026 chose the Topics concentration. Despite this low uptake, the English Department had to provide multiple sections of Topics courses at both the lower and upper divisions to ensure that the concentrators were able to graduate on time—an administrative and staffing burden out of proportion with the number of students actually served. Indeed, the department was never able to run the ENGL 400 capstone seminar required for Topics concentrators because there were never enough senior-year concentrators to make staffing the course viable. (We have in fact already submitted a deactivation proposal for ENGL 400.)

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

Yes

Please describe:

ENGL 400 (Senior Capstone Seminar), a course required for Topics in English concentrators that never met due to the concentration's low enrollments, is being deactivated in coordination with this program elimination proposal.

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Features

Academic Level

Undergraduate

Does this program prepare graduates for entry into a career or profession that is regulated by the State of Illinois?

No

Program of Study

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

Graduation Requirements

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours.

Minimum hours required major and supporting course work: 39 hours of English department courses. Students must complete at least 15 hours of coursework at the 300-level or above (ENGL 301, ENGL 350, and 9 more hours) and 9 of these hours (including the capstone) must be taken in the student's chosen field.

University Requirements

The university and residency requirements can be found in the Student Code (<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3/part8/3-801/>) (§ 3-801) and in the Academic Catalog (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/>).

General Education Requirements

Follows the campus General Education (Gen Ed) requirements (<https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/>). Some Gen Ed requirements may be met by courses required and/or electives in the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Composition I		4-6
Advanced Composition		3
fulfilled by ENGL 350		
Humanities & the Arts (6 hours)		6
fulfilled by ENGL 200 and any other course approved as Humanities & the Arts		
Natural Sciences & Technology (6 hours)		6
Social & Behavioral Sciences (6 hours)		6
Cultural Studies: Non-Western Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: US Minority Cultures (1 course)		3
Cultural Studies: Western/Comparative Cultures (1 course)		3
Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses, at least one course must be Quantitative Reasoning I)		6-10
Language Requirement (Completion of the fourth semester or equivalent of a language other than English, or completion of the third semester in two different languages other than English is required)		0-20

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		9
ENGL 200	Introduction to the Study of Literature and Culture (prerequisite for other English courses; can be taken at the same time as a course that satisfies the Composition I requirement)	
ENGL 301	Introduction to Critical Theory	
ENGL 350	Writing about Literature, Text, and Culture	
Cluster Courses ¹		12
Four courses in one of the following clusters, selected from approved lists maintained by the English Department:		
Literature and Science		
Media Cultures		
Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality		
Capstone Course		3
ENGL 400	Senior Capstone Seminar (guided research in the student's chosen field)	
Elective Coursework ^{1,2}		15

At least five courses chosen from those controlled by or cross-listed with the Department of English (Business and Technical Writing, Creative Writing, and English)

One course in Difference and Diaspora. This requirement can be fulfilled by taking an appropriately focused course from among ENGL 350: Writing about Literature, Text, and Culture; the cluster courses; or the elective coursework.¹

Total Hours

39

- ¹ Chosen from the list maintained in the Department of English. Note: ENGL 350 can serve as a period course, a cluster course, an elective course, and/or a Difference and Diaspora course only when it is not also being used to fulfill a core requirement. Students who wish to use ENGL 350 in this way must thus take the course a second time (and with a different topic than the first time).
- ² Students may count one Independent Study course (ENGL 290, ENGL 390 or BTW 290) toward the additional coursework requirement.

Program Relationships

Corresponding Program(s):

Corresponding Program(s)

English, BALAS

Delivery Method

This program is available:

On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Enrollment

Phase Down/Elimination Enrollment

Does this program currently have enrollment?

Yes

If so, what is the anticipated term of completion?

Describe how this revision or phase down/elimination will impact enrollment and degrees awarded. If this is an elimination/phase down proposal include the plans for the students left in the program.

In the seven years of the Topics in English concentration's existence, 41 Topics concentrators have graduated. They represented 7% of the total number (563) of English major graduates. Here is the year-by-year breakdown of those graduations:

1. In 2020-21, the first two Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 2% of the total number (116) of English major graduates.
2. In 2021-22, five Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 6% of the total number (81) of English major graduates.
3. In 2022-23, nine Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 9% of the total number (98) of English major graduates.
4. In 2023-24, seven Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 7% of the total number (93) of English major graduates.
5. In 2024-25, eight Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 8% of the total number (98) of English major graduates.
6. In 2025-26, ten Topics in English concentrators graduated. They represented 13% of the total number (77) of English major graduates.

The department advisors report that there are currently four declared concentrators working toward their degree. Their graduation dates range between Fall 2026 and Spring 2028. There are also three prospective concentrators, all of whom are aiming at graduating

by Spring 2029. Finally, several of the incoming first-year students are also considering the concentration, which would make Spring 2030 the last probable semester with Topics in English graduates.

We do not anticipate any difficulty in moving these students toward the successful completion of their degrees. Because this elimination proposal is not yet approved, we have ensured that the 2026-27 ENGL course schedule includes lower and upper-division courses in all three Topics in English topical clusters. We will do the same when we begin planning the 2027-28 ENGL course schedule in late Fall 2026. That covers the declared concentrators. We will also be able to provide courses through Spring 2030 for the prospective concentrators and any incoming first-year concentrators: the three topical clusters selected for the Topics in English concentration (Literature and Science, Media Cultures, and Race-Indigeneity-Gender-Sexuality) were based on faculty interest, and lower and upper-division courses in all three areas will continue to be offered.

Budget

Are there budgetary implications for this revision?

No

Attach File(s)

Library Resources

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

The department has conferred with Paula Mae Kerns, head of the Literatures and Languages Library, and all agree that this elimination is not expected to impact the University Library's resources, collections, or services.

EP Documentation

EP Control Number

EP.27.024

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

Non-EP Documentation

U Program Review Comments

Rollback Documentation and Attachment

DMI Documentation

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

BALAS:English:TopicsEglish-UIUC

Program Code:

10KV5735BALA

Minor Code

Conc Code

5735

Degree Code

BALAS

Major Code

0311

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Attached Document

Justification for this request

Program Reviewer Comments

Key: 56