Dear English Secondary Education Major,

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the English Department at The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as your future goals become a reality. As a new student you will be working with an award-winning faculty ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

On the back of this letter, we have compiled a guide to “Understanding Your First Semester Sequence.” This document provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP). Following these steps will help you register for your fall classes.

As an English major, you have been assigned a faculty member as your advisor who will meet regularly with you throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your courses, academic performance, and registration, as well as your personal and professional aspirations. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all courses necessary for graduation.

For additional information about programs and faculty prior to summer orientation, please consult our website: http://english.pages.tcnj.edu/. If you have specific questions, don’t hesitate to contact us at 609-771-2298.

As department chairs, we’re excited to have you join our community. Let’s make this a great year! See you at summer orientation.

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# UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the **First Semester Sequence**. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements, First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

## English Secondary Education

### Major Requirements

*All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIT 200</td>
<td>Intro to Poetry</td>
<td>(1 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT 099</td>
<td>English Department Orientation Seminar</td>
<td>(0 units)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First Seminar Program (FSP)

*Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):*

- FSP 161 (Any Section)
- FSP 162 (Any Section)
- FSP 163 (Any Section)
- FSP 164 (Any Section)

### Second Language

*This major requires 2nd language proficiency to the 103 level.*

Information about language placement criteria is available at [http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu/). No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

### Liberal Learning

*You need to take one liberal learning course. However, you should select six courses from any of the following liberal learning categories on your online First Semester Worksheet (1 unit):*

- World Views and Ways of Knowing
- Social Change in Historical Perspectives
- Natural Science (with lab)
- Quantitative Reasoning
- And/or any course satisfying at least one civic responsibility category.

See [http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://www.liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) for additional information.

### Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement

*All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDS 102</td>
<td>Information Literacy Proficiency</td>
<td>(0 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDS 103</td>
<td>Community Engaged Learning</td>
<td>(0 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRP 99</td>
<td>Summer Reading Program</td>
<td>(0 unit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A ‘full’ load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** You will be preregistered into LIT 200. You may select a desired section of LIT 200 on your online First Semester Worksheet, and we will attempt to accommodate your request, but that does not guarantee you will be placed into it.

**First Seminar Program (FSP):** The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: [http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu](http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu). Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of preference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Second Language and Liberal Learning:** You should take one language course and one course in liberal learning, or one intensive language course (in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, or Russian) that counts as two courses. If you place out of a language altogether, then you should take two liberal learning courses.

See: [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu/](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu/) for additional information. There are three ways to complete your liberal learning (LL) requirements: a nine-course distribution, a 6 to 8 course Inter-disciplinary Concentration, or a 2nd major.

Please make your request on your online Worksheet.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** IDS 102 is a required, on-line, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99):** This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.