The SLU Department of English offers talented sophomore- and junior-level majors the opportunity to apply for our departmental Honors program: Research Intensive English (RIE). This program provides opportunities for pursuing literary and rhetorical studies in smaller, more rigorous settings. The RIE program has as its primary goal the creation of strong research cultures within the major. Students who want to pursue graduate work in English, Law, or other related fields will be excellently positioned to submit competitive applications after completing this concentration.

Admission
The Honors English (RIE) Program is competitive. The Department invites eligible majors to submit applications each academic year (in March). Application to the program is limited to majors who have completed at least TWO semesters at SLU (sophomores and above) who have maintained a 3.5 GPA in English courses. Students are considered based upon the strength of a writing sample and past performance in English courses.

Structure
In order to graduate with a BA in English with the Research Intensive concentration, admitted RIE students must take at least TWO Research Intensive Seminars (while maintaining a 3.75 or higher GPA in English) and must complete a Senior Research Project (ENGL 499) in either the fall or the spring semester of their senior year. RIE seminars will be more rigorous sections that fulfill the 4000-level seminar requirement for the major. These rigorous and focused special-topics courses will require a significant amount of in-class and written engagement with secondary critical, historical, and theoretical material. These seminars will be augmented by a visiting scholar who will lend his or her expertise to seminar discussions and will offer a public lecture that intersects with the critical concerns of the seminar. RIE Seminars will thus ask students to see their own critical work as engaging in wider disciplinary research conversations.

Cross-Over with University Honors
All English RIE seminars automatically count as University Honors courses. Students can be dually enrolled in RIE and University Honors; however, students are not required to be University Honors students in order to be accepted into the English honors program.
Senior Honors Project
During the fall or spring of the senior year, all RIE students must complete Senior Honors Project (ENGL 499). In consultation with a full-time member of the English Department faculty, students will formally propose a senior honors project in the semester prior to writing the project. The RIE Senior Honors Project counts for the University Honors thesis requirement.

- **Critical Option:** This requirement asks RIE majors to craft, over one semester, a scholarly, polished and dynamic piece of critical writing of substantial length (25-30pg). Senior Honors Projects must display original scholarly research beyond the immediate primary texts under study, and must engage with appropriate secondary works to craft a critically-informed yet distinctive essay.
- **Creative Option:** Alternatively, students may choose to undertake a creative project, which would be comprised of a work of fiction or poetry (15-25 pp.) along with a critical section (10-15 pp.). Creative projects should assemble, extend, and revise your own creative work; the critical section should analyze issues of craft that are central to your project, as those issues relate to a reading list of approximately a dozen related texts.

Senior Legacy Symposium
Senior RIE majors will represent the English Department at SLU’s spring semester Senior Legacy Symposium, held each April.

Senior Honors Project Award
The Department of English will designate one graduating RIE major each year as the recipient of our **Outstanding Senior Honors Project Award.** We will announce this award annually alongside our existing Collins and Mandeville awards for excellence in the major.

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