



Undergraduate Minor in Editing

The discipline of editing is both a science and an art; editors use principles of grammar, English usage, composition, and design as they work with authors to improve manuscripts. By completing the editing minor, students show potential employers that they have followed a well-thought-out curriculum that has given them a theoretical base for editing plus substantial mentoring and practice in editing skills. The curriculum also provides students with considerable knowledge of the publishing industry.

Goals of the Editing Program

Students are expected to do the following:

- Identify the principles of linguistic form, meaning, and context governing effective editing decisions.
- Improve manuscripts through effective copyediting and substantive editing methods.
- Use standard editing/publishing software tools.
- Acquire, edit, and publish articles, stories, books, webpages, or other communication, in a manner consistent with approved publishing practices and ethical principles, grounded in an awareness of the history and the current state of the publishing industry.

Why Study Editing?

Editing students typically pursue careers in book, journal, and magazine publishing, but they can apply editing skills in most other professional settings. All professions rely on communicating information. Students may effectively combine the editing minor with any major on campus to enhance their marketability as editors, publishers, content creators, or professionals in other careers involving academic research and publishing.

Careers

BYU editing students find work in a variety of enterprises:

- Freelance work
- Publishing houses
- Businesses and corporations
- Nonprofit organizations, such as government agencies, libraries, museums, schools, and universities

Editing graduates also edit and publish content in a variety of genres:

- Books
- Magazines
- Scholarly works
- Web content
- Advertising and marketing materials
- Technical materials
- Personal and family histories

Students also leverage their editing training to pursue graduate school in a variety of disciplines.

Editing Minor Requirements

Requirement 1—Complete all 6 courses

- DigHT 230: Introduction to Print Publishing (3)
- ELang 223: Introduction to the English Language (3)
- ELang 322: Modern American Usage (3)
- ELang 325: The Grammar of English (3)
- ELang 350: Basic Editing Skills (3)
- ELang 410R: Genre and Substantive Editing (3)

Requirement 2—Complete this course

- ELang 430R: Editing for Publication (3)

Course Sequencing and Prerequisites

Either ELang 223 (preferred) or Ling 201 (allowed) is prerequisite for ELang 322 and 325. Both 322 and 325 are prerequisites for ELang 350 and ELang 410R. Students must formally enroll in the editing program before they can enroll in these 2 classes. They may be taken concurrently, but we recommend taking 350 before 410R. DigHT 230 may be taken any semester prior to taking ELang 320R, but we recommend taking it shortly before taking ELang 430R, unless you plan to regularly use the software programs taught in DigHT 230 during the interim. This sequence of courses can be completed in 4 semesters by taking ELang 223 (or Ling 201) the 1st semester, ELang 322 and 325 the 2nd semester, ELang 350 and 410R in the 3rd semester, DigHT 230 in one of semesters 1-3, and ELang 430R the 4th semester.

Faculty and Advisors

Last name	Advisor	Office location	Office phone #	E-mail address
A-D	Matt Baker	4045 JFSB	422-1253	mattbaker@byu.edu
E-L	Alan Manning	4053 JFSB	422-2974	alan_manning@byu.edu
M-R	Suzy Bills	4092 JKB	422-1719	suzy_bills@byu.edu
S-Z	Jacob Rawlins	4051 JFSB	422-2144	jacob_rawlins@byu.edu

These faculty members serve as academic advisors for editing students and are available to offer advice regarding academic matters and the process of finding a job. Go to linguistics.byu.edu/editing-program/ to fill out an application for the editing major. Print out the email confirming your application and bring the printout to your meeting with your faculty advisor to secure a signature.

University Aims and the Editing Program

The editing program strives to cultivate in its students the attitude that editing is primarily service-oriented. Students will receive an education that harmonizes with the aims of BYU in the following ways:

- *Spiritually strengthening*: Students will explore how editors can meet the expectations of their employers and clients while remaining morally responsible to society and ultimately to God for the accuracy, ethical soundness, and values of the materials they edit.
- *Intellectually enlarging*: Editing is a lifelong pursuit of learning. Students will learn to make information more accessible to the public by helping authors communicate that information with readers.
- *Character building*: Students will learn to become selfless editors, serving the needs of others above their own desires.
- *Lifelong learning and service*: As editors, students will grow and change under the service of their chosen careers, enabling them to give back to their communities.