



Editing and Publishing BA Program

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 major, 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.

Careers

BYU editing students find work in a variety of enterprises, including freelance work, publishing houses, businesses and corporations, and nonprofit organizations, such as government agencies, libraries, museums, schools, and universities. Editing graduates also edit and publish content in a variety of genres, such as books, magazines, scholarly works, web content, advertising and marketing materials, technical materials, and personal and family histories. Students also leverage their editing training to pursue graduate school in a variety of disciplines.

Course Requirements

Requirement 1—Complete all 6 courses

- ELang 223: Introduction to the English Language (3)
- ELang 273: Introduction to English Linguistic Research Methods (3)
- ELang 322: Modern American Usage (3)
- ELang 324: History of the English Language (3)
- ELang 325: The Grammar of English (3)
- Ling 198: Career Preparation for Linguistics and English Language Majors (2)

Requirement 2—Complete all 4 courses

- DigHT 230: Introduction to Print Publishing (3)
- ELang 350: Basic Editing Skills (3)
- ELang 410R: Genre and Substantive Editing (3)
- ELang 430R: Editing for Publication (3)

Requirement 3—Complete 1 course

- ELang 362: Discourse Analysis (3)

- ELang 468: Introduction to Varieties of English (3)
- Ling 452: Introduction to Sociolinguistics (3)
- Ling 485: Corpus Linguistics (3)

Requirement 4

Complete university course work (or the equivalent) to a 200-level or higher in any single foreign language including American Sign Language. This requirement can be waived by completing a university-approved minor that includes complex professional discourse modes, such as STEM fields, business, psychology, social sciences, English literature, or rhetoric.

Requirement 5—Complete 3 courses

- ELang 326: English Semantics and Pragmatics (3)
- ELang 362: Discourse Analysis (3)
- ELang 410R: Genre and Substantive Editing (second topic) (3)

- ELang 421R: Studies in Language or Editing (6v)
- ELang 447: Early Modern English (3)
- ELang 448: Late Modern English (3)
- ELang 468: Introduction to Varieties of English (3)
- ELang 524: History of the Book (3)
- ELang 525: Old English 1 (3)
- ELang 526: Middle English (3)
- ELang 529: Structure of Modern English (3)
- ELang 535: Language and Literature (3)
- ELang 548: Old English 2 (3)
- DigHT 360 (DigHT-Ling) Programming for Text Processing and Analysis (3)
- Ling 325: Theoretical Syntax
- Ling 445: Introduction to Psycholinguistics (3)
- Ling 450: Introduction to Historical-Comparative Linguistics (3)
- Ling 452: Introduction to Sociolinguistics (3)
- Ling 480: Problems in Translation (3)

- Ling 485: Corpus Linguistics (3)
- Ling 551: Anthropological Linguistics (3)

Note: Course chosen to satisfy requirements 1, 2, and 3 cannot double-count in requirement 5.

Requirement 6—Complete 1 course

- DigHT 250: Web Publishing (3)
- DigHT 260: Tools for Text Processing and Analysis (3)
- DigHT 315: Research in the Digital Humanities (3)
- Ling 366: Social Media/Marketing Analysis (3)

Requirement 7—Complete 1 hour from the following

- ELang 351R: Editing Student Journals (2v)
- Ling 399R: Academic Internship: Editing and English Language (9v)

Requirement 8—Complete 1 course

- ELang 495R: The Senior Course (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.
- *Character building*: Students will learn to become selfless editors, serving the needs of others.
- *Lifelong learning and service*: Students will grow and change under the service of their chosen careers, enabling them to give back to their communities.