



*FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY*  
*DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE*  
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August 1, 2024

Dear Freshmen,

Congratulations on your admission to the Department of English Language and Literature at Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU)! As the department chair, I am delighted to extend my warmest welcome to your new academic home. I am proud of your decision to join one of the most distinguished English departments in Taiwan, from which many illustrious alumni in Taiwan and around the world have emerged.

Reflecting on my own experience from around twenty years ago, I remember starting my university education and facing some of the biggest adventures of my life: choosing my courses, living independently (especially if you are staying away from home), and immersing myself in an English-only academic environment, while struggling to determine what kind of person I wished to become. I understand that, while you may feel curious and excited, you might also feel apprehensive about facing the unfamiliar and the unknown. Fortunately, you have chosen a great major that emphasizes not only personal development but also critical thinking through a diverse range of courses. This foundation will surely pave the way for a promising career in the competitive job market. In roughly a month, you will be surrounded by new friends, senior classmates, and dedicated teachers. At that point, you will begin to contemplate your goals for life and your career here at FJCU.

I will provide you with some background and advice to help you prepare for this transition. First, as an English major, you will be joining a tradition of liberal arts education that dates back nearly a thousand years to the first medieval European universities. In this tradition, the study of language and literature fosters your ability to express yourself, understand our common humanity, think critically, and appreciate different values and cultures. The curriculum in the English Department at FJCU is built on these fundamentals, distinguishing our department from other English and foreign language departments in Taiwan. You will receive essential training in English literature and linguistics, composition and conversation, critical thinking, and global culture. To bridge the gap to your future career, the English Department offers a variety of professional training courses and opportunities to use English in practical activities. However, in today's world, this traditional foundation alone is not sufficient, though it remains of paramount importance. An English major must be ambitious and proactive in connecting their English learning experience and academic knowledge to other fields, creating an interdisciplinary expertise that sets them apart in the job market. To this end, the English Department has prepared a list of interdisciplinary courses designed to expand your English learning and knowledge into other fields. These courses include AI technology and programming, business communication, bilingualism, creative cultural industries, and theatre and directing, all tailored specifically for English majors in our department.

As for my advice, be brave in embracing the changes that college life will bring. College will challenge you to think and act differently, and you must take full responsibility for what and how you learn. This is the first time you have the opportunity to actively shape your future. Learning will not occur if you sit passively and do nothing on your part. To foster learning, you are strongly encouraged to ask questions, participate in discussions, and relate your studies to your life experiences. However, rest assured that teachers and our two amiable department secretaries are always here to provide any necessary assistance.

Additionally, it is important for you to explore your potential by experimenting with different courses, programs, service learning, internships, student associations, clubs, and career paths. During your time at FJCU, you are strongly encouraged to consider applying for a minor, a double major, or a cross-disciplinary program. You should also take advantage of opportunities to study abroad, such as participating in exchange programs. Develop both short-term and long-term goals and remain flexible in adjusting them as needed.

Engaging in these activities, along with crafting a clear four-year academic plan, will be instrumental in shaping and polishing your resume and even preparing you for a successful career upon graduation.

College life is a pivotal period that will significantly shape the person you become for the rest of your life. While you will undoubtedly experience freedom, it is crucial to recognize that responsibilities and commitments will also weigh heavily. As you enjoy your freedom and explore various activities, you will need to master time management and build meaningful relationships. It is essential to strike a balance between your academic, personal, and family life. Additionally, exercise should be a regular habit to alleviate stress, and take time to relax during vacations. If you ever feel dismayed, do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers for support and guidance. Nonetheless, embrace moments of dismay and frustration, as they are valuable experiences that contribute to your growth. They can help you stay alert to your weaknesses and develop the endurance needed for more challenging tasks after graduation.

Your life is about to become very interesting, though also quite busy. Rest assured that our teachers, staff, and fellow students are here to support you. I am confident that your college years will be filled with unforgettable experiences of exploration, discovery, and joy. I look forward to seeing you this September.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Wei-Cherng Sam Jheng**  
**Associate Professor and Chair**

**Department of English Language and Literature, Fu Jen Catholic University**