

# ENGLISH

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### WRITING/EDITING

Creative writing  
Fiction and nonfiction  
Poetry, plays, screenplays, and scripts  
Commercial writing (e.g. greeting cards, jingles)  
Journalism  
Writing/Reporting  
Podcast script writing  
Editing  
Critique  
Professional writing  
Copywriting and editing  
Blogging  
Speech writing  
Column writing  
Social media writing and management

Newspapers/Magazines  
Broadcast media companies:  
Television  
Radio  
Movie  
Trade, professional, or consumer publications  
Internet sites  
Government agencies  
Universities and university presses  
Technical and gaming industries  
Large corporations  
Self-employed/Freelance

Select elective coursework in a particular area of interest.  
Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or departmental or program newsletters.  
Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.  
Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing.  
Gain as much experience as possible through volunteer positions, internships, or part-time jobs.  
Demonstrate patience and persistence in starting a career in creative writing.

---

#### BUSINESS/INDUSTRY

Writing/Editing  
Corporate communication  
Management  
Customer Service  
Sales  
Marketing  
Human resources  
Consulting  
Real estate  
Insurance

Financial institutions  
Real estate agencies  
Property management firms  
Insurance companies  
Large and small corporations  
Print and electronic media  
Consulting firms  
Retailers including department, grocery, drug, online, and book stores

Obtain a business minor.  
Gain relevant experience through part-time jobs, internships, or volunteer work.  
Secure leadership roles in campus organizations and student professional associations.  
Seek experience as a financial officer or treasurer of a campus organization.  
Develop strong analytical and computer skills.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS/ADVERTISING**

Account coordination  
Writing  
Editing  
Research  
Media Relations  
Social media management  
Account management  
Fundraising

Public relations firms  
Advertising agencies  
In-house public relations departments  
Trade associations  
College and universities  
Nonprofit organizations  
Government agencies  
In-house advertising departments  
Sports and entertainment organizations  
Educational institutions  
Consulting Firms  
Hospitality and tourism industry  
Private corporations  
Freelance

Obtain internship or other relevant work experience to break into this field. Be prepared to start at the bottom and work for promotions.  
Develop strong research, public speaking, and interpersonal skills.  
Seek experiences being self-directed and a team player.  
Volunteer to write publications for nonprofit or student organizations.  
Supplement curriculum with business courses

---

### **TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION**

Technical writing and editing  
Science and medical writing  
Grant and proposal writing  
Content management  
Software and hardware documentation  
Information technology writing  
Manual and tutorial writing  
Human-computer interface design  
Corporate communications and training  
Mechanical communication

Management, scientific, and technical consulting companies  
Technical industries  
Retailers, including electronics  
Engineering firms  
Healthcare industry  
Computer systems design companies  
Self-employed/Freelance  
Software publishers

Earn a bachelor's degree with a focus in English, communication, or journalism. Complete coursework in technical communication.  
Minor or take classes in science and/or computer science to learn about technical areas.  
Gain experience in a specialized field such as engineering, medicine, science, web design, or computer software.  
Develop strong grammar and language skills; consider a second-language.  
Obtain volunteer or internship experience as a research assistant in a technical information department.  
Pursue a technical writing or editing internship.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### GOVERNMENT

Administration  
Research  
Policy analysis  
Lobbying  
Legislative services  
Program management  
Cultural resources management

Federal government  
State and local government  
Public archives  
Libraries

Learn federal, state, and local government job application process. Seek assistance from the campus career center.  
Take additional courses or earn a minor in an area of interest.  
Gain relevant work experience through government internship programs.  
Earn a master's or professional degree in a related field to qualify for the most job opportunities.  
Get involved in campus leadership roles.  
Develop excellent written and oral communication skills

### EDUCATION

Higher education administration:  
Admissions, financial aid, academic advising and support services  
Higher education administration continued:  
Development and alumni affairs  
International Education and Study Abroad  
Information/Library Science  
Developing educational products and services  
Non-classroom teaching  
English as a Second Language (ESL)  
Research  
K-12 Teaching  
University teaching  
Teaching abroad  
Tutoring  
Educational consulting

Public and private K-12 schools  
Colleges and universities  
Language institutes, local and abroad  
Educational companies  
Libraries  
Museums  
Private learning centers  
Test preparation organizations  
Nonprofit organizations involved with literacy

Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching.  
Gain certifications to teach multiple subjects or age groups for increased job opportunities.  
Earn a master's or doctorate degree for post-secondary teaching. Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations for graduate school.  
Plan to attend graduate school in college student personnel or information science for those fields.  
Seek volunteer experiences working with children through Big Brother/Sister programs, tutoring, summer camps, YMCAs, etc.  
Participate in activities such as debate or literary clubs, campus publications, or student government.  
Pursue leadership roles such as resident advisor, peer mentor, student advisor, etc.

### PUBLISHING

Editing  
Advertising  
Sales  
Self-publishing  
Circulation  
Production  
Publicity  
Marketing  
Promotion  
Administration

Trade publishers  
Trade magazines  
Special interest magazines  
Association magazines  
Sunday newspaper supplements  
Educational publishers  
Religious publishers  
Professional and scholarly publishers  
University presses  
Independent publishers  
Alternative media publishers (e.g., e-books, audio-books)

Obtain an internship in the publishing industry.  
Participate in a summer publishing institute.  
Develop proofreading, editing, and copy-editing skills; maintain current knowledge of digital production technology  
Gain experience by writing for student publications such as the newspaper, creative writing magazines, the yearbook, etc.  
Conduct an informational interview with or shadow a professional in the publishing industry.  
Look for positions with local dailies and alternative weeklies in the community

## AREAS

### LAW

Law Assistance  
Prosecution  
Defense  
Contractual  
Corporate  
Nonprofit or Public Interest  
Government  
Mediation  
Lobbying

### NONPROFIT

Administration  
Research  
Grant writing  
Development/Fundraising  
Programming  
Volunteer coordination

### GENERAL INFORMATION

English majors develop skills – in written communication, editing, problem-solving, and working independently and in a team -- that are valued by employers in nearly every profession. A bachelor's degree in English is very broad and is sufficient for entry-level positions in business, industry, and nonprofits, as well as in areas such as entertainment, radio, television, and museum work. Because English can lead to many different career paths, it is important to identify an area of interest and plan to gain the right skills, experiences, and credentials to enter that field.

A major in English is also good preparation for continued graduate or professional training in areas such as English, law, political science/government, public administration, communications, medicine/medical humanities, and faith-based professions.

Be proactive, determined, assertive, and confident in order to secure freelance writing opportunities. Save samples of written work to be used for a portfolio.

Cultivate other career opportunities in order to supplement a freelance writing income.

Seek out and engage in internships in business or government to demonstrate skills and interest in working in desired fields following graduation.

Get involved in organizations and gain experience in leadership roles that reflect interests in business or government roles.

Obtain additional areas of expertise such as journalism, broadcasting, technical writing, or politics for specialized positions.

Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in careers of interest to learn more about their jobs.

Join relevant professional associations. Attend their conferences and read journals.

## EMPLOYERS

Law firms  
Government agencies  
State and local government  
Corporations  
Public interest organizations  
Private practice  
Colleges and universities

Nonprofit organizations  
Social service organizations  
Churches and religiously affiliated groups

## STRATEGIES

Participate in a debate or forensic team to hone communication skills.

Join a pre-law student organization.

Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.

Take courses in, and gain experience with, mediation and conflict resolution.

Obtain a summer or part-time job in a law firm.

Plan to shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.

Complete special training requirements for paralegal positions.

Attend law school and earn a JD to become an attorney. Maintain an excellent GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations to gain law school admittance. Plan to take the LSAT.

Volunteer or intern with social service organizations.

Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds

Develop excellent communication skills.

Take a course in grant writing.

Join a service organization or get involved in community service projects