

What Can I Do With a Major In English

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Online Presentation: http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/englishmajor_files/frame.html

Goals—after viewing this presentation you will:

- Know about options for careers using your English major
- Identify types of employers and organizations that hire English majors
- Understand strategies you can utilize to increase your chances of being hired using your English major

What are some of the skills you've gained as an English major?

- Writing
- Creative writing
- Technical writing
- Persuasive writing
- Editing
- Reading critically
- Interpretation of written material
- Analytical thinking
- And more.....

Some famous English majors

Alan Alda--actor, writer

Linda Bloodworth-Thomason--television writer/
producer (Designing Women, Evening Shade)

Carol Browner--Head of the Environmental
Protection Agency

Chevy Chase--comedian, actor, writer

Mario Cuomo--Governor of New York

Michael Eisner--Walt Disney CEO

Kathryn Fuller--World Wildlife Fund CEO

A. Bartlett Giamatti--President, Yale University
and Commissioner of Baseball

Cathy Guisewite--cartoonist (Cathy)

Chris Isaak--songwriter, singer

Stephen King--novelist

More Famous English Majors

Paul Newman--actor, food entrepreneur

Joe Paterno--football coach (Penn State)

Sally Ride--astronaut

Diane Sawyer--broadcast journalist

Steven Spielberg--filmmaker

Marty Shottenheimer--Coach of Kansas City Chiefs

Brandon Tartikoff--television executive

Clarence Thomas--U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Grant Tinker--TV Executive and Producer

Harold Varmus--Nobel laureate in medicine,
Director of National Institutes of Health

Barbara Walters--broadcast journalist

Pete Wilson--Governor of California

From the Mississippi State University English Department <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/English/names.html>

Some actual job titles of MSU English majors

- Staffing assistant
- Technical writer
- Executive Assistant
- Manager
- Research Associate
- Writer/Teacher
- Editor

From the 2002 Graduate Follow-up Study available in the MSU Career Development Center and online <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/gradstats.shtml>

Other job titles of English Majors

- Claims examiner
- Critic
- Education Director
- Insurance Underwriter
- Lobbyist
- Media Buyer
- Public Relations Assistant
- Advertising Account Executive
- Special Events Coordinator
- Campaign Manager
- Corporate Trainer
- Fundraiser
- Fact Checker
- Copy Writer
- Research Assistant
- Management Trainee
- Production Assistant
- Researcher/Writer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Sales Trainee

From Rutgers Career Services <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cswebpg/Menglish.html>

Top 10 Occupations Employing graduates with a Bachelor's Degree in English

1. Artists, broadcasters, writers, editors, entertainers, public relations specialists (10.7%)
2. Top- and mid-level managers, executives, administrators (10.6%)
3. Teachers, secondary school (10.6%)
4. Insurance, securities, real estate, business services (5.9%)
5. Secretaries, receptionists, typists (5.1%)

Top 10 Occupations Employing graduates with a Bachelor's Degree in English

6. Sales occupations including retail (4.9%)
7. Other management-related occupations (4.8%)
8. Other administrative (4.8%)
9. Teacher, elementary school (3.5%)
10. Other service occupations except health (3.2%)

From the College Majors Handbook

What Can I Do With a Major In English?

- Most students only think that they'll be successful if they obtain employment in an area that they think of as being directly related
 - Writing, editing, technical writing, teaching
- You are still using your English major if you are using the skills that you learned
 - Public relations, marketing, management, sales, law, political science, government
- The following slides will help you to explore both ways to use your English degree. The information comes from the University of Tennessee's "What Can I Do With a Major In...?" website at <http://career.utk.edu/majors/majors.asp>

What can I do with a major in English?

- Writing and Editing
- Education
- Publishing
- Advertising
- Public Relations
- Law
- Business and Industry

Writing and Editing

- Areas of employment
 - Creative Writing
 - Journalism
 - Free-lance
 - Technical Writing

Writing and Editing

- Typical Employers
 - Newspapers
 - Magazines
 - Broadcast media companies
 - Trade professional, consumer publications
internet sites
 - Advertising agencies
 - Corporations and institutions

Writing and Editing

- Strategies for employment
 - Write for campus publications
 - Choose related coursework
 - Develop speaking and debate skills
 - For Technical Writing-take science or computer courses to gain knowledge about areas and trends
 - Become familiar with proposal writing and freelance submission process

Publishing

- Areas of Employment
 - Editing
 - Advertising
 - Sales
 - Circulation
 - Production
 - Publicity

Publishing

- Typical Employers
 - Special interest and trade magazines
 - Associational and organizational magazines
 - Sunday newspaper supplements
 - Educational and professional books
 - Religious books and magazines
 - General book publishers

Publishing

- Strategies for employment
 - Obtain a publishing internship
 - Participate in a summer publishing institute
 - Develop word processing and editing skills
 - Work on student publications
 - Conduct an informational interview or shadow a professional in the publishing industry

Advertising

- Areas of employment
 - Creative
 - Media
 - Research
- Typical Employers
 - Advertising agencies
 - In-house agencies of large companies

Advertising

- Strategies for employment
 - Demonstrate talent, persistence, assertiveness, and enthusiasm.
 - Be prepared to start in an entry-level position.
 - Obtain strong statistics background for market research positions.
 - Create portfolio of writing and ideas showing originality and imagination for creative or advertising positions.
 - Gain knowledge of various media, contemporary tastes, and trends.
 - Obtain campus newspaper, TV, or radio experience.
 - Participate in sales and promotions in student organizations or private businesses.
 - Complete an internship in a market research firm or advertising agency.
 - Supplement curriculum with courses in business, art, or graphic design.

Public Relations

- Areas of employment
 - Media
 - Research
 - Writing
 - Editing
- Typical Employers
 - Public relations firms and advertising agencies
 - In-house public relations departments
 - Trade associations
 - Colleges and universities and nonprofit organizations
 - Government Agencies

Public Relations

- Strategies for Employment
 - Obtain an internship or other relevant work experience.
 - Develop strong research skills, public speaking ability, enthusiasm, and interpersonal skills.
 - Supplement English curriculum with business courses.
 - Become an effective team member by working on group projects for campus organizations.

Law

- Typical Employers
 - Law Firms
 - Corporate legal departments
 - Government and public service agencies
- Strategies for Employment
 - Develop strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
 - Become skillful in debate and public speaking.
 - Organize campus events, speakers, or political rallies.
 - Obtain summer or part-time work in a law firm.
 - Complete special training requirements for paralegal positions.
 - Attend law school and earn a law degree to become an attorney.

Business and Industry

- Areas of Employment
 - Management
 - Sales
 - Marketing
 - Human Resources
 - Insurance
 - Claims
 - Underwriting

Business and Industry

- Typical employers
 - Business organizations including banks, real estate agencies, insurance firms, and large and small corporations
 - Retailers including department, grocery, drug, specialty, variety, and book stores

Business and Industry

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

General Strategies

- Take coursework related to your career goals
- Obtain relevant experience through RELATED part-time jobs, internships, volunteer experiences, student and community organizations and activities
- Talk to people who do what you want to do. Conduct informational interviews to find out what training they have, how they found their positions, and what they do. You'll also get a head start on networking

General Strategies

- **NETWORK!** Get to know people in your field. Let everyone know what your goals are.
- Join professional organizations.
- Start your job search early.
- Do your research so you know if you need further training or licensing.

What now?

- Make a list of ALL the potential jobs you can think of that you might enjoy and would relate to your English major
- Research these jobs and narrow down your list
- Talk to people working in jobs that interest you to narrow your list further and start your professional network
- Start gaining relevant experience
- Learn about the typical employers for your field and start looking for job listings

To find out more about occupations

- Occupational Outlook Handbook- <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>
- Minnesota Careers- www.mncareers.org
- ISEEK- <http://www.iseek.org/sv/index.jsp>
- O*Net- <http://online.onetcenter.org/>
- eDISCOVER-e-mail us at cdcdiscover@mnsu.edu to get started
- CDC Career Resource Library
- Links on the CDC webpage www.mnsu.edu/cdc

See also--

- The Job Search For English Majors on the CDC Workshops Website
 - <http://www.mnsu.edu/cdc/workshops.shtml>
 - This presentation is posted there with active links as well
- Other college websites on jobs/careers for English majors
 - <http://www.flsouthern.edu/eng/careers.htm>
 - <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cswebpg/Menglish.html>
 - http://www.ubalt.edu/careercenter/careerlink/00_fall/major_english.html
 - <http://www.ksu.edu/english/programs/jobs.html>
 - <http://www.winthrop.edu/english/careers.htm>

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