



## Major to Career Guide

# English

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

### Introduction

English is a branch of the Language Arts that involves the study of the written word. Students of English are trained to think in-depth about the complex relationships between humanity and society as a whole. Through the study of literary criticism, expository writing (such as essays), and the structure of the language, English teaches one to evaluate proper usage of the language, to express ideas logically and concisely, and to explore universal questions involving the human condition.

People most likely to be attracted to English include those who enjoy reading and writing. People who are analytical, interested in human nature, and like to communicate through creative expression are also often found in this area of study.

Finding employment with a Bachelor's degree in English is more challenging than entering a field with a BA in business or science. However, more potential employers are beginning to recognize the value of an employee who has strong written and verbal communication skills. Although the prominent career path following a degree in English is often teaching, study in English can also provide a good foundation for further study in fields such as law, business, and advertising.

### What are some potential occupations?

Advertising Copywriter  
Author/Poet  
Bibliographer  
Biographer  
Book Critic  
Columnist  
Copy Editor  
Copywriter  
Court Reporter  
Editor (Magazine/Newspaper)  
Educator  
Freelance Writer  
Human Resource Specialist  
Industrial/Institutional Educator/Trainer  
Language Analyst  
Lawyer  
Lexicographer  
Librarian/Library Technical Assistant  
Media Specialist  
Narrator  
Newspaper Reporter  
Playwright  
Proofreader  
Publicity Specialist  
Publisher  
Sales  
Speech Writer  
Tutor  
TV, Radio, and News Script Writer

### What are some of the job tasks?

- Analyze language
- Proofreading
- Publish scholarly works
- Review and edit documents
- Think, research, and write critically
- Write and report
- Read, analyze, and interpret literature and film
- Effectively present research results

### What are some desirable personal qualities?

- Ability to communicate well, both verbally and in writing
- Exceptional knowledge of English and its proper use
- Good vocabulary
- Sensitivity to culture and language
- Ability to think logically
- Appreciate storytelling
- Ability to concentrate for long periods of time
- Capacity to work well under pressure
- Imagination

## *Additional information*

Experience acquired through internships or cooperative education programs can prove valuable in obtaining a full-time position.

Career opportunities for English majors who have received advanced degrees are unlimited.

Those interested in managerial positions in business, industry, and banking may benefit from additional coursework in business and management.

Self-promotion of skills and intensive job searches may be necessary to acquire a desired position.

## *Who hires?*

- Advertising Agencies
- Bookstores
- Educational Institutions
- Film Companies
- Government Agencies (state, local, federal)
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Professional Journals
- Profit/Non-profit Corporations
- Public Relations Firms
- Publishing Firms
- Radio/TV Stations

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