



What can I do with a Major in...

English

What is English at U of L?

The program for English majors is designed to lay a foundation for careers in writing, teaching, scholarship, and research, as well as for many other types of position in the business and professional world where skills in communication, creative, critical, or analytical writing, public relations, editorial skills, advertising, or the like are required. The University of Louisville's Bachelor's degree focuses on literary studies, while the Master's degree offers emphases in literary studies, creative writing, and rhetoric, composition, and professional writing. All B.A. students take core courses in literature and critical theory, but may take up to fifteen hours of electives in literature, creative writing, rhetoric and composition, or linguistics. M.A. students similarly have a core of 15 hours in literary studies and literary theory with electives in all the areas mentioned above. M.A. students may elect to write a scholarly thesis as a capstone project or take additional coursework and complete a non-thesis project. The M.A. in English prepares students to go on to Ph.D. programs in literature, rhetoric and composition, or creative writing (or M.F.A. programs in creative writing); students may also prepare to work in business and industry as professional writers or writing consultants.

Students in English can choose from an exciting variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in such areas as American, British, and world literature; the English language and linguistics; professional writing, including technical writing, business writing, and journalism; expository writing, rhetoric, and composition; and teacher training.

Degrees in English at U of L:

Bachelor of Arts in English
Minor in English
Master of Arts in English
Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition

Occupational Overview

Besides teaching and literary research, a major in English can lead to professional careers in archival and curatorial librarianship, publishing, journalism, advertising and the arts, human resources, sales and marketing, management, and government work. An undergraduate major in English is often a distinct advantage even when additional qualifications are needed, such as going on to pursue a degree in Law (JD) or Business (MBA).

Employment Requirements

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required for many positions. Some highly competitive areas may favor, or even require a graduate degree. However, a BA in English is a broad degree that can lead to job opportunities in many diverse fields. Therefore, it is critical that students gain related experience and skills through internships, part-time work, or volunteering in their field of interest as undergraduates.



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Career Opportunities in English:



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Account Executive	Editor, Film/ Video	Literary Agent
Actor/Actress	Editor, Magazine	Loan Officer
Administrative Assistant	Editor, News	Lobbyist
Administrator	Editor, Newspaper	Magazine Writer
Advertising Copywriter	Editor, Publications	Management Trainee
Analyst		Manuscript Reader
Artist	Editor, Writer	Market Research
	Editorial Assistant	Marketing Specialist
Attorney	Education & Training	Marketing Writer
Author - Fiction Non-Fiction	Educational Program Specialist	Mass Media
Assistant Scientific Writer	Entertainment Agent	Media Planner
Bank Officer	Fashion Merchandiser	Medical Records
Biographer	Foreign Correspondent	Narrator (?)
Book Critic	Freelance Writer/ Consultant	Novelist
Business Manager	Fundraiser	Paralegal
Circulation Assistant	Greeting Card Writer	Paralegal Assistant
City Manager	Hearing Officer	Personnel Manager
College Professor	Hotel & Motel Manager	Playwright
Columnist/Commentator	Human Resource Specialist	Poet
Comedy Writer	Human Services	Politician



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Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

Writing/Editing: Creative writing – Journalism – Freelance – Technical writing

Suggested Strategy: Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or newsletters. Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center. For technical writing, obtain a concentration in professional writing. Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing, and cultivate other career opportunities to supplement income. Select elective coursework to supplement areas of interest. Consider an advanced degree for greater employability.

Education: Public schools – Private schools – Colleges and universities – Libraries – Private learning centers

Suggested Strategy: Gain volunteer experience working with youth in a tutoring or teaching capacity. Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching (consult the College of Education). A graduate degree is required for college teaching.

Publishing: Editing – Advertising – Sales – Circulation – Production – Publicity

Suggested Strategy: Gain experience in an area of the publishing industry. Participate in a summer publishing institute. Work on student publications. Conduct an informational interview with a publishing professional. Develop strong editing skills.

Advertising: Creative – Media – Research – Advertising agencies – In-house agencies of large companies

Suggested Strategy: Obtain strong statistics background for market research positions. Create portfolio of your writing. Obtain campus newspaper, TV, or radio experience. Complete an internship in a market research firm or ad agency. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, art, or graphic design. Be prepared to start in an entry-level position.

Public Relations: Research – Writing – Editing – Media – PR firm – Ad agencies – Government agency – Non-profit organizations

Suggested Strategy: Obtain related experience in area of interest. Supplement curriculum with C&J courses in PR or business.

Develop strong research, public speaking, and interpersonal skills.

Law: Law firms – Corporate legal departments – Government agencies – Public service agencies

Suggested Strategy: Obtain experience in a law firm. Complete paralegal training or earn law degree. Become skillful in debate and public speaking. Pursue pre-law emphasis of English degree, and seek pre-law advising through College of Arts and Science.

Business/Industry: Management – Sales – Marketing – Human Resources – Insurance (claims, underwriting)

Suggested Strategy: Obtain related experience in area of interest. Supplement curriculum with business courses or a minor. Secure leadership roles in campus organizations. Join student professional associations.

Related Links in the English Discipline:

Professional Association Links

Magazine Publishers of America www.magazine.org
National Newspaper Publishing Association www.nnpa.org
National Writers Union www.nwu.org/nwuhome.htm
Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network www.spawn.org
Small Publishers Association of North America <http://spannet.org>
Association of American Publishers www.publishers.org
Association of Authors and Publishers www.authorsandpublishers.org
Association of Directory of Publishers www.adp.org
Investigative Reporters & Editors <http://www.ire.org/>

Career Planning Links

Careers for English Majors <http://www2.uncwil.edu/english/career.htm>
Occupational Outlook Handbook: Writers and Editors
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/ocos089.htm>



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Ideas for Volunteer/Internship/ Co-op

If you are interested in learning more about an Internship, please call Pam Drake at 852-6801 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Majozo. These appointments are for Internship information only. As an English major or minor, you can apply your transferrable academic skills in writing, editing, critical thinking, research, and related endeavors to a job and earn credit while gaining professional work experience by enrolling in English 450, Cooperative Internship in English Studies, for from one to three credit hours. Work in technical writing, business writing, publishing, grant writing, editing, public relations, broadcasting, law, museum and library archives and acquisitions--to name just a few possibilities--can provide experience appropriate to English 450. As long as the internship work engages the transferrable skills of an English major, what the work is and where one does the work is flexible. Contact the English Department Internship Coordinator, currently Dr. Estella Conwill Majozo, to discuss possibilities.

Salary/Outlook Info



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>