

Careers: Master of Arts in English with an Emphasis in Language and Composition Theory

The Master of Arts in English with an emphasis in Language and Composition Theory prepares students with the broadest set of pragmatic skills in interpretation, rhetoric, nonfiction and technical writing, literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving that will serve in almost any profession.

- **Teaching:** English M.A.'s often hear the question: "What are you going to do with an English degree? Teach?" The answer is yes, teaching—whether high-school teaching, teaching English abroad, or teaching at the college level—is one profession available to those with M.A.'s in English.
- **Composition Department Management:** Should the student become interested in the research, teaching, and administration of composition programs at the university level, full-time positions are available in English departments for those who would also double as instructors, researchers, and administrators.
- **Professional and technical writing:** Besides technical writing jobs, there are opportunities in areas such as search engine optimization, grant writing, corporate communications, and social media coordination.
- **Further graduate studies:** Traditionally the M.A. in English with an emphasis in Language and Composition Theory, like the M.A. in English with a literature emphasis, is designed to route students into further graduate work toward a Ph.D.
- **Career enhancement/professional development:** Many people return to school after establishing a career as a way to grow and possibly secure an advantage over others in their current professions.
- **Journalism:** A journalism degree is not necessary to become a journalist. Many UNLV alumni with M.A.'s in English now work in local journalism at the *Sun*, *Review-Journal*, *City Life*, *Las Vegas Weekly*, and television and radio stations.
- **Publishing:** Publishing is another industry filled with persons holding M.A.'s in English and working as editors or production managers.
- **Public relations and advertising:** PR and advertising agencies need employees with strong writing and communication skills.
- **Libraries:** Persons holding M.A.'s in English already love books and reading and might want to consider a career in libraries. An M.A. in English is good preparation for an M.L.S. (Master of Library Science).
- **Business, management, and beyond:** In the broadest sense possible, the M.A. in Language and Composition can do anything. In survey after survey, employers rank writing and communication skills as the most important credential and the one that they find most lacking in recent graduates. Persons with M.A.'s go on to careers in finance, management, human resources, politics, sales, marketing, civil service, non-profit.