Career Possibilities for English Majors

English is a flexible major that provides you with a broad set of skills in writing, literacy, critical thinking, and problem solving that can serve you well in almost any walk of life. English majors can go on to careers in.

Teaching

English majors often hear the question: "What are you going to do with an English degree? Teach?" The answer is yes, teaching is one thing you can do with your degree. With a B.A. in English, you can get jobs teaching high school English (in some cases, you will need additional credits in Education courses, but you can do this while on the job) or teaching English abroad. To teach at a community college you will need at least a Masters' degree, and to teach at a university you need a Ph.D.

The Law

English is excellent preparation for law school, and many of our English majors have gone on to top-ranked law programs. English majors do well on the LSAT because of their training in writing and critical thinking.

Journalism

You do not need a journalism degree to become a journalist. Many of our alumni now work in local journalism at the Sun, Review-Journal, City Life, Las Vegas Weekly, television and radio stations, and so forth. If you're considering a career in journalism, write for the Rebel Yell or seek out internship opportunities that will give you some practical experience.

Publishing

Publishing is another industry filled with English majors. Here too internships and volunteer work will help you to develop practical skills in editing, desktop publishing, web design, and so forth.

Professional and technical writing

We offer courses in professional writing to help develop the skills you will need for careers in this area. Besides technical writing jobs, there are opportunities in areas like search engine optimization, grant writing, corporate communications, and social media coordination.

Public relations and advertising

PR and advertising agencies need candidates with strong writing and communication skills. Internships, temporary jobs, and entry-level positions can all lead to higher-level opportunities.

Libraries

If you love books and reading, as many English majors do, you might want to consider a career in libraries. Many of our alumni now have good careers in local libraries, and an English degree is good preparation for an MLS (Master of Library Science) if you choose to pursue further training.

Business, management, and beyond

In the broadest sense possible, English majors 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. English majors go on to careers in finance, management, human resources, politics, sales, marketing, civil service, non-profit agencies, institutional analysis... the possibilities are endless

17 January 2013