

What can I do with a major in...

English

Career Advisors:

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

English majors go in many directions after college. Some continue on to graduate school, law school, or other pre-professional programs. Some go into teaching: elementary, secondary, or college-level. Others head for journalism—newspapers, magazines, radio or television. Many move directly into careers in government, in the non-profit sector, and in business and industry. Wherever they go, the critical thinking abilities and communication skills they learned as English majors serve as the foundation for their career success.

English majors are sought out by employers for their ability to write clearly, analyze carefully, interpret thoughtfully, reflect deeply, organize effectively, think both creatively and analytically, work independently or as a part of a team, and perform many kinds of research and problem solving. Their training in oral communication and in many different forms of writing enables them to express themselves more eloquently. It also gives them highly practical skills to take into the workplace.

English majors develop a deep appreciation of the power of language and the beauty of the verbal arts. Through the study of linguistics, they gain not only knowledge of language, but also of the relations between language and society. Through the study of literature they gain an understanding of the richness and complexity of the human condition, learn to deal with difficult and complicated ideas, and develop the sensitivity and tolerance needed for any career in our modern world.

The hiring institutions and job titles that follow are just a few examples of the careers available to English majors; many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Administrative officer	Journalist (reporter, editor)	Research assistant
Advertising sales rep	Lawyer	Small business owner
Agent (literary, talent)	Legislative aide	Social worker
Analyst	Librarian	Special events coordinator
Archivist	Loan officer	Speech pathologist
Attorney	Lobbyist	Speech writer
Bank or trust officer	Management trainee	Stockbroker
Clergy member	Manuscript reader	Teacher
Copywriter	Market researcher/analyst/writer	Technology trainer
Documentation specialist	Military Officer	Textbook representative
Editor (free-lance)	Personnel representative	Travel agent/travel guide
Editorial assistant	Politician	Underwriter
Freelance writer	Press secretary	Web developer
Foreign service officer	Proofreader	Writer (free-lance, technical, magazine)
Fundraiser/grant writer	Public relations representative	
Human resource assistant	Publicist	
Insurance agent/broker	Publishing assistant	
Intelligence officer	Real estate agent	

REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Advertising agencies and departments
Arts centers and organizations
Banks and investment firms
Business corporations and industries
Community service organizations
Consumer organizations
Educational institutions
Foundations
Government agencies
Healthcare facilities
Hospitality organizations
Insurance companies
Investment firms

Libraries
Market research companies
Media (radio and TV, film studios)
Museums
Newspapers and magazines
Non-profit agencies
Periodicals (professional, technical, corporate)
Public relations firms
Publishing companies
Research organizations
Retail stores
Telecommunications firm
Travel companies

WHERE DO UMW ENGLISH MAJORS GO?

EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITE

- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Massage Matters LLC
- EdOptions Inc.
- Apex systems Inc.
- Target
- Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group (Lexington Imprint)
- Latham& Watkins LLP

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- American University, Master's in Arts Management
- American University, Master's in Arts in Film and Video
- Christie's Education, New York, Master of Arts in Modern Art, Connoisseurship and the History of the Art Market
- DePaul University, Master's in Arts in Writing and Publishing
- Florida State University, Master's degree in Library and Information Science
- George Mason University, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
- George Washington University, Master's in Arts in Public Policy
- Old Dominion University, Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics
- Rosemont College, Master's in Arts in English and Publishing
- University of North Carolina Greensboro, Master of Arts/Ph.D. English/Rhetoric and Composition

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. Society of Professional Journalists: www.spj.org
2. Society for Technical Communication: www.stc.org
3. Public Relations Society of America: www.prsa.org
4. Writers Guild of America East: www.wgaeast.org
5. Investigative Reporters and Editors: www.ire.org

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