What can I do with a major in…

English

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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

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

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

*The Office of Academic and Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*