



Careers for English Lovers

Reviewed By:
Rita Grasser

Counselor, Student Support Services
Waubensee Community College

Created By:

Patricia Allcorn

English / Teacher Certification Student
Northern Illinois University

BA in English: Ticket to the Future

Prospective English Students:
"What can I do with a major in English?"

Answer: "Plenty!"



Students who pursue a degree in English often worry that there are no real opportunities for those who love literature and language arts. Fortunately, there are plenty of jobs for English majors in today's market.

Employable Skills

- Communications
- Analytical Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Creative Thinking



Communications: "a : a technique for expressing ideas effectively (as in speech) b : the technology of the transmission of information (as by print or telecommunication)"

Merriam-Webster Online
<http://www.m-w.com/>



Analytical Thinking: The ability to systematically solve a problem (Santrock).



Critical Thinking: The ability to think “reflectively and productively and evaluat[e] the evidence” (Santrock).



Creative Thinking: “The ability to think in novel ways and discover unique solutions to problems” (Santrock).

The skills developed while studying for a BA in English are the same skills that are invaluable to employers.

The English student:

- learns how the language functions through the study of grammar and linguistics
- learns the cultural and political use of language by studying literary works from ancient to modern times
- becomes the creator of fiction, poetry, and exposition
- develops the ability to view a problem from all sides

Preparation for the Real World:



“As an English major, I learned to read, write, and think, and those skills have served me well” (Doherty).

“English majors are trained to apply analytical skills to real problems, rather than the ‘made-to-solve ones in math, engineering and business courses” (Biedler).

“The real world functions on communications – the clearer the better” (Biedler).



Careers

There are two prevalent fields a graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English can readily access: Education and Business.

(for a definition of Bachelor of Arts Degree, see links)

Secondary School Teacher

- Must be accepted into a teacher certification program
- Eligible to teach middle or high school
- Prospect for employment: Good to Excellent (Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH))
- Average beginning salary: \$31,704. (OOH)



ESL or Adult Literacy Teacher

- Does not have to know second language (OOH)
- Must have the ability to work with people from varied backgrounds
- Job outlook: “expected to grow as fast as the average” (OOH).
- Average pay: \$18.00 per hour (OOH).





Writer

- Develop fiction and non-fiction for books, magazines, trade journals, online publications, company newsletters, radio and television broadcasts, motion pictures, and advertisements.
- Job outlook: “expected to grow as fast as the average” (OOH).
- Average salary: \$44,000 (OOH).



Public Relations Specialist

- “Improves communication between two groups in the business world” (Jobs!).
- “Creates and promotes an image for an organization” (Jobs!).
- Job outlook: higher than average.
- Average pay: \$630.00 per week (OOH)

Graduate School

Many students choose to pursue further education after receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Some fields of graduate study include: Law, Linguistics, Literature, Education, and Business.



There are many more careers available to the English major. It is my hope that this page has aroused your curiosity and that you will delve deeper into the possibilities.

Patricia Allcorn

Links

- NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) <http://www.ncte.org>
- Occupational Handbook <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachelor_of_Arts
- http://caps.uchicago.edu/resources/pdfs/applying_grad_school.pdf

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Santrock, John W. *Adolescence*. 10th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill. 2005.

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