

# English

English as a field of study focuses especially on language as a medium of communication and on the various genres to which the cultural and aesthetic uses of language give rise. The study of English is at the heart of a humanities education; as such, its value is intrinsic to the molding of the self as person and as part of one's society. English majors study the structure and content of imaginative literature, whether in the form of poetry, prose, or drama, explore theories of language and literature, and develop their ability to mold and interpret language in speech and writing, and study literature within the context of culture. They also develop strategies for producing, understand-

ing, evaluating, and enjoying language in all its socially significant forms.

Graduates with a Bachelor's degree in English have pursued careers in business, academia, and public service. While a major in English prepares students directly for careers in education, the degree also offers excellent preparation for advanced graduate work or study in law, medicine, or other professional programs. This guide highlights some of the characteristic skills and abilities developed through study in English as well as representative occupations of graduates.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

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The skills and abilities one learns as an English major can be more generally applied to any career requiring expertise in the use of language as a means of communication. For example, despite their differing responsibilities,

journalists, teachers, sales representatives, and politicians all use their skill with language to perform their jobs. Representative skills and abilities of degree holders in English are listed below.

### Speaking

- Influencing and persuading
- Assessing needs of an audience
- Presenting alternative viewpoints
- Clarifying ideas
- Making oral presentations
- Shaping general ideas into specific points and programs

### Research

- Designing/directing projects
- Organizing ideas/information
- Developing hypotheses
- Solving problems
- Using information resources
- Comparing interpretations

### Critical Thinking and Analysis

- Analyzing
- Summarizing ideas
- Comparing information
- Using theoretical approaches
- Developing critical evaluations
- Thinking independently
- Synthesizing ideas/themes
- Applying close reading and interpretation

### Writing

- Abstracting information
- Interpreting data
- Editing and revising techniques
- Writing concisely
- Writing creatively
- Drafting documents

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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The study of English is a superb preparation for work in a vast array of fields, wherever skill in the production and interpretation of language is central - in business, communications, or government and public service, for example.

The following list of occupations pursued by English majors offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths for which English provided preparation. This list was

compiled from follow-up surveys of University of Michigan graduates and from national data. For some of the occupations listed below, such as speech therapist and curriculum planner, additional skills or related training are desirable. Additional graduate study is generally expected for those occupations marked with a

- on the following list.

<b>Communications</b>	<b>Business/Industry</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Government/Public Sector</b>
Publishing	Associate buyer, retail store	Teacher	Legislator (writing laws)
Technical writer	Industrial trust analyst	Professor	• District attorney
Convention planner	• Corporate attorney	Writer in residence	Foreign Service officer
Drama critic	• Psychometrist	• Speech therapist	Big Brother/Big Sister program coordinator
Art critic	Advertising sales manager	Curriculum planner	• Social worker
Music critic	Training consultant	Reading specialist	• City manager
Book store manager	• Law librarian	• Counseling psychologist	Congressional researcher
Journalist	Public relations	• Audiologist	Professional association publications coordinator
Patient education director of HMO	Writing advertisements, catalogs, policy	• University chancellor	Public interest group lobbyist
Editorial assistant	Newsletters/editing	Dean	Speech writer
Web designer			Peace Corps teacher
Programmer/analyst			

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

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The Department of English Language and Literature offers the following four concentration options: the General Program, Honors, Creative Writing, and Teaching Certification programs. Introduction to Poetry (240) and What Is Lit? (239) are prerequisites for all programs. Students

planning to concentrate in English should contact the department for printed information, or look up our website at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english>, and then consult a concentration advisor about program options.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For information about choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

English Language and Literature  
3187 Angell Hall  
764-6330

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
764-0332