Career Paths

ENGLISH

A bachelor's degree in English is very broad and is sufficient for entry-level positions in business and industry, as well as in areas such as entertainment, radio and television commentary, and museum work. Because English can lead to many different career paths, it is important to identify an area of interest and plan to gain the right skills, experiences, and credentials to enter that field. A major in English is also good preparation for continued graduate or professional training in areas such as English, law, political science/government, public administration, communications, religious studies (e.g., seminary).

Writing/Editing

Example Career Paths: Creative Writing | Journalism | Professional writing

Potential Employers: Newspapers/Magazines | Broadcast media companies | Trade, professional, or consumer publications | Internet sites | Government agencies | Universities and university presses | Technical and gaming industries | Large corporations | Self-employed/Freelance

Professional Associations: [Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators](#) | [Writers Guild of America](#)

Business/Industry

Example Career Paths: Writing/Editing | Corporate communication | Management | Customer service | Sales | Marketing | Human resources | Consulting | Real Estate | Insurance

Potential Employers: Financial institutions | Real estate agencies | Property management firms | Insurance companies | Large and small corporations | Print and electronic media | Consulting firms | Retailers

Professional Associations: [American Management Association](#)

Public Relations/Advertising

Example Career Paths: Account coordination | Writing | Editing | Research | Media relations | Social media management | Account management | Fundraising

Potential Employers: Public relations firms | Advertising agencies | In-house public relations departments | Trade associations | Colleges and universities | Nonprofit organizations | Government agencies | In-house advertising departments | Sports and entertainment organizations | Educational institutions | Consulting firms | Hospitality and tourism industry | Private corporations | Freelance

Professional Associations: [American Association for Advertising Agencies](#) | [American Marketing Association](#) | [Business Marketing Association](#)

Technical Communication

Example Career Paths: Technical writing and editing | Science and medical writing | Grant and proposal writing | Content management | Software and hardware documentation | Information technology writing | Manual and tutorial writing | Human-computer interface design | Corporate communications and training | Mechanical communication

Potential Employers: Management, scientific, and technical consulting companies | Technical industries | Retailers including electronics | Engineering firms | Healthcare industry | Computer systems design companies | Software publishers | Self-employed/Freelance

Professional Associations: [Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management](#) | [American Medical Writers Association](#) | [Society for Technical Communication](#)

Government

Example Career Paths: Administration | Research | Policy analysis | Lobbying | Legislative services | Program management | Cultural resources management

Potential Employers: Federal government | State and local government | Public archives | Libraries

Professional Associations: [National Association of Government Communicators](#) | [American Society for Public Administration](#)

Education

Example Career Paths: Higher education administration | Information/Library Science | Developing educational products and services | Non-classroom teaching | English as a Second Language (ESL) | Research | K-12 teaching | University teaching | Teaching abroad | Tutoring | Educational consulting

Potential Employers: Public and private K-12 schools | Colleges and universities | Language institutes, local and abroad | Educational companies | Libraries | Museums | Private learning centers | Test preparation organizations | Nonprofit organizations involved with literacy

Professional Associations: [National Council of Teachers of English](#)

Publishing

Example Career Paths: Editing | Advertising | Sales | Self-publishing | Circulation | Production | Publicity | Marketing | Promotion | Administration

Potential Employers: Trade publishers | Trade magazines | Special interest magazines | Association magazines | Sunday newspaper supplements | Educational publishers | Religious publishers | Professional and scholarly publishers | University presses | Independent publishers | Alternative media publishers (e.g., e-books, audiobooks)

Professional Associations: [American Copy Editors Society](#) | [Association of American Publishers](#) | [Magazine Publishers of America](#) | [National Newspaper Publishers Association](#)

Law

Example Career Paths: Law assistance | Prosecution | Defense | Contractual | Corporate | Nonprofit or public interest | Government | Mediation | Lobbying

Potential Employers: Law firms | State and local government | Federal government | Corporations | Public interest organizations | Private practice | Colleges and universities

Professional Associations: [American Bar Association](#) | [Legal Writing Institute](#)

Nonprofit

Example Career Paths: Administration | Research | Grant writing | Development/Fundraising | Programming | Volunteer coordination

Potential Employers: Nonprofit organizations | Social service organizations | Churches and religiously affiliated groups

Professional Associations: [Association of Writers & Writing Programs](#) | [National Council of Teachers of English](#)

Preparing for your Career

- Select elective coursework in a particular area of interest.
- Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or departmental or program newsletters.
- Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.
- Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing.
- Gain as much experience as possible through volunteer positions, internships, or part-time jobs.
- Demonstrate patience and persistence in starting a career in creative writing.
- Develop proofreading, editing, and copy-editing skills; maintain current knowledge of digital production technology.
- Gain experience by writing for student publications such as the newspaper, creative writing magazines, the yearbook, etc.
- Conduct an informational interview with or shadow a professional in the publishing industry.
- Look for positions with local dailies and alternative weeklies in the community.
- Volunteer to write or edit publications with local nonprofit organizations to gain experience.
- Research the publishing industry to learn more about career ladders.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.
For more, visit https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/

WCIDWMM

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

Center for Career and Experiential Education /