

# 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).

Be proactive, determined, assertive, and confident in order to secure freelance writing opportunities. Writers typically experience many rejections for each piece that is accepted for publication. Save samples of written work to be used for a portfolio. Cultivate other career opportunities in order to supplement a freelance writing income. Obtain additional areas of expertise such as journalism, broadcasting, technical writing, or politics for specialized positions. Conduct informational interviews or shadow professionals in careers of interest to learn more about their jobs. Join relevant professional associations. Attend their conferences and read journals.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Creative Writing
- Journalism:
  - Writing/Reporting
  - Editing
  - Critique
- Freelance writing
- Technical industries
- Retailers including electronics
- Editing
- Advertising
- Sales
- Circulation
- Production
- Publicity
- Marketing
- Promotion
- Administration

Newspapers/Magazines  
Broadcast media companies: television, radio, and movie  
Trade, professional, or consumer publications  
Internet sites  
Government agencies  
Universities and university presses  
Technical industries  
Self-employed/Freelance  
Large corporations  
Trade publishing  
Special interest magazines  
Trade magazines  
Association magazines  
Public and private K-12 schools  
Colleges and universities

## COMMON EMPLOYERS



## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- [Magazine Publishers of America](#)
- [Association of American Publishers](#)
- [Society for Technical Communication](#)
- [National Council of Teachers of English](#)
- [American Copy Editors Society](#)
- [National Newspaper Publishers Association](#)
- [Writers Guild of America](#)
- [Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators](#)
- [American Medical Writers Association](#)



## STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- 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.