What Can I Do With a Major In...

English

http://www.unt.edu/pais/insert/uengl.htm

Majoring in English:

As an English major, you can choose to concentrate on literature, composition, linguistics, technical writing, creative writing or language arts with secondary certification.

With a concentration in literature, you may study American, British or world literature in general or take courses on the works of Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare. You may also take courses in drama, Greek and Roman mythology and poetry.

You may study rhetoric and take courses in expository writing as well as fiction, poetry and technical writing with a concentration in composition. You may enter your work in UNT’s annual writing awards competition.

The creative writing concentration offers courses in writing creative non-fiction, fiction and poetry. The concentration in language arts prepares you to teach English in secondary schools after completing the requirements for teacher certification.

UNT’s English classes are designed to give you as much practical experience as possible. Our literature and creative writing classes encourage you to exchange ideas openly and to develop critical thinking skills.

The English faculty includes several award-winning creative writers and others who have received Fulbright awards and research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As a student of English you can participate in a number of student groups in the field, including an international honor society and a creative writers continuum. The department offers several scholarships to English majors based on academic standing, performance and need.

General information on Careers in the Major:

By choosing English as your major, you can pursue a career in writing or proofreading, working for a newspaper, magazine, book publisher, public relations office or news service. A major in English will prepare you for jobs that require strong skills in analytical thinking, communication and writing. You may teach English composition or literature or English as a second language in a public or private school. Some English majors enroll in law school or other graduate
programs. If you plan to research and teach English composition and literature at a university, you will need to earn a master's and possibly a doctoral degree.

You may become a technical writer, rewriting computer manuals, directions, repair instructions, reference booklets and educational film scripts. They are employed by various manufacturers as well as by government agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Government Printing Office and the departments of Agriculture, Defense and Energy.

UNT’s English graduates include novelists Karleen Koen, David Lindsey and Larry McMurtry; movie screenplay writer Ken Harrison; and poet and short fiction writer Jan Seale. Alumni also include an editor with Rolling Stone magazine and a member of the public relations staff of PricewaterhouseCoopers, an accounting firm.

- 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 be planful about gaining the right skills, experience, 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 their journals.

For more information about specific classes and requirements for students beginning in 2014-2015 follow the links provided below.


**Related Career Titles**

*Entry-Level (Bachelor’s Degree):*

Creative Writer  
- Novels  
- Poetry  
- Plays  
- Screenplays  
- Scripts  
- Greeting Cards  
- Lyrics  
Journalist  
Freelance Writer  
Lexicographer  
Technical Writer  
Book Editor  
Magazine Editor  
Scientific Writer  
Grant/Proposal Writer  
Corporate Communications and Training Writer  
Mechanical Communication Writer  
Community Relations Director  
Publishing Editor  
Publishing Advertiser  
Publishing Salesperson  
Publishing Marketer  
Publishing Promoter  
Proofreader  
High School Teacher  
Library Assistant  
Testing, Item Writers  
Tutor  
Interpreter/Translator  
Caption Writer  
Broadcast News Analyst  
Reporter/Correspondent  
English as a Second Language Teacher  
International Educator  
Academic Advisor  
Instructional Coordinator  
Copy Writer  
Paralegal/Legal Assistant  
Social Media Coordinator  
Public Relations Specialist
Media Relations
Meeting, Convention and Event Planner
Fundraising Manager
Customer Service

Sales and Marketing
Management Trainee
Underwriting

Jobs Requiring Additional Experience (Master’s, Doctorate, Certifications)

Archivist
College or University Professor/Lecturer
Community College Professor
Lawyer
Librarian

Possible Work Settings

Universities/Colleges
Community Colleges
High Schools
Middle Schools
Elementary Schools
International Language Institutes
Law Offices
Libraries
Consumer Magazines
Organizational Magazines
Business/Professional Journals
Advertising Agencies
Marketing Agencies
Non-profit Organizations

Local/State/Federal Government
Publishing Firms
Independent Publishers
Educational Publishing
Religious Books and Magazines
University Presses
Libraries
Museums
News Stations
Broadcast Media Companies
Internet Sites
Large Corporations
Public Relations Firms
Home Office

Examples of Employers Recruiting UNT English Majors:

Arlington ISD
Auburn University
AXA Advisors, LLC
Baylor University
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Fort Worth
Brink's Inc. Burlington Area School District
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Cingular Wireless
City of Dallas
Clear Channel Outdoor

Colorado State University
Communities In Schools Dallas Region Inc.
Dallas I.S.D.
Department of Homeland Security
Human Rights Initiative
Javelin Direct
KUVN 23 Dallas/Fort Worth
KWES-TV
KXXX-TV News 25 (see Centex Television, LTD.)
Lockheed Martin
Skills Used and Developed by English majors

English Language
Foreign Language
Communications and Media
Sociology
Psychology
Administration and Management
Reading Comprehension
Speaking
Writing
Learning Strategies
Assessing Performance
Active Learning

Critical Thinking
Active Listening
Judgment and Decision Making
Oral Expression
Speech Clarity
Oral Comprehension
Written Comprehension
Written Expression
Speech Recognition
Fluency of Ideas

Websites for Exploring English Careers

Writing Career, http://writingcareer.com/#
**English Job Search Sites**


**Student Organizations at UNT** *(Learn more at UNT ORGSYNC)*

- Bilingual/ESL Student Organization
- Creative Writing and Workshop Club
- English Club
- Graduate Students in English Association
- Moot Court (Pre-law mock trials)
- National Association of Black Journalists
- North Texas Review (on campus print publication)
- North Texas Television
- Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity
- Public Relations Student Society of America
- Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society
- Technical Communications Student Organization
- UNT Debate

**Professional Organizations**

American Library Association, [www.alaw.org](http://www.alaw.org)


Association of Writers & Writing Programs, [www.awpwriter.org](http://www.awpwriter.org)
Conference on College Composition and Communication, www.ncte.org/cccc

Council of Writing Program Administrators, www.wpacouncil.org

East Central Writing Centers Association, www.ecwca.org

International Reading Association, www.reading.org

International Writing Centers Association, www.writingcenters.org


Modern Language Association, www.mla.org


Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, www.tesol.org

Writers Guild of America, http://www.wga.org/

Additional Resources

O*NET OnLine: http://www.onetonline.org/
Eagle Network: http://careercenter.unt.edu/eagle_network.html
LinkedIn: http://university.linkedin.com/linkedin-for-students.html
mySkills myFuture: http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/
USAjobs: https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads
CareerOneStop: http://www.careeronestop.org/
CareerRookie: http://www.careerrookie.com/

Need help figuring all this out? Call the Career Center and make an appointment with your Career Advisor! You can also get help with resume and cover letter writing and interview skills preparation.

*Information for this handout compiled from the following Career Services Departments:
Central Washington University: http://www.cwu.edu/career/
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne: http://www.ipfw.edu/offices/career/
Texas State University: http://www.careerservices.txstate.edu/
University of North Carolina Wilmington: http://www.uncw.edu/career/index.html
University of North Texas: http://careercenter.unt.edu/
University of Tennessee-Knoxville: http://career.utk.edu/
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire: http://www.uwec.edu/Career/index.htm