

What job possibilities are available for English graduates?

English offers a wide variety of possibilities. A degree in English will help prepare a student for advanced study in law, medicine, and education. Many businesses want entry-level hires who can communicate effectively, so a degree in English (or a dual degree in English and Business) can serve as the foundation for corporate success.

English majors leave ECU with the developed and demonstrated ability to think, to research, and to write, together with substantial knowledge of specific content areas. Their skills and their subject mastery prepare them for further education in many disciplines and make them appealing candidates for employment. They have demonstrated their ability to study, to learn, to process, and to communicate a body of knowledge.

Skilled jobs in the 21st century will go to people who can communicate in a variety of situations, with people from all walks of life, and through media and technology. Our degree can get you started on a career path in education, publishing, business, industry, or the public sector.

Possible careers:

English majors

- Grant writing, fund-raising, providing outreach
- Human resources
- Writing, editing, publishing
- Developing and curating information for the Web and social media
- Creating user experiences and designing content strategies
- Teaching English to speakers of other languages
- Developing materials and textbooks for language arts courses (especially K-12)
- Training in professional settings and public relations (e.g. public info officers for business and municipalities)
- Preparing technical materials and documents in a variety of industries (e.g. Cisco and Nortel)
- Solving problems related to language and pattern recognition (e.g. for the CIA/Department of State)

... particularly with the Certificate in Business & Technical Communication

- technical communication teachers and trainers
- technical editors and document design specialists
- freelance technical writers
- public information officers for businesses and municipalities
- grant-writers, fund-raisers, and educational outreach professionals (at libraries, museums, foundations, and universities)
- program directors and communication specialists in non-profit organizations

- communicators in government agencies (e.g., county governments; public health agencies)
- technical writers in a variety of industries (e.g. Cisco and Nortel)
- user experience designers and content strategists (e.g. Global Knowledge)

... particularly with a minor in Linguistics and/or a certificate in TESOL:

- ESL & EFL teaching (outside of K-12 and for in-service teachers in K-12)
- teacher training (cultural topics, language/dialect diversity issues, ...)
- material/textbook writing (especially for K-12 Language Arts courses)
- careers with the CIA/Department of State (jobs related to language as well as those concerning pattern recognition and problem solving)
- jobs related to voice recognition systems, natural language processing, computational linguistics (for companies like IBM, Microsoft, Google, ...)

... particularly with a minor in Creative writing:

- Creative writing helps prepare one for the important work of contributing to the culture, history and imaginative life of a community by acting as poets, prose writers, contributors to local newspapers and blogs, leading workshops in local libraries, community centers, etc.
- Creative writing minors can also be more salable on the education market as most CC instructors are required to be generalists and wear more than one hat.
- Creative writers are particularly well-suited to participation in the political process as they make it part of their business to make larger their historical moment by contending with negotiations between myth and reality, by restoring that which history has intentionally or accidentally erased from the public record, and by providing a venue in which the issues that concern us all can be debated.

... particularly with a minor in Film studies:

- Media literacy will help them in any job involving images, marketing, recruitment, advertising, communication, journalism, critical thinking, etc.
- They can help their companies with imaging. For example, if a minor went to work for Hardee's corporate, he or she might be able to help them change their advertising from being sexist and alienating 1/2 of the US population.
- Our minors become film reviewers for papers, MA students, employed at local news stations, and flight attendants