

## *What can I do with a major in ENGLISH?*

### SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT ENGLISH GRADUATES POSSESS:

- ability to communicate and express ideas clearly with extensive knowledge of grammar and vocabulary
- ability to critically analyze and interpret texts based on social, historical and political contexts
- ability to conduct research and present information in an articulate and persuasive manner
- ability to creatively organize and present one's thoughts and ideas
- ability to work effectively and independently to meet specific deadlines

It is important to enhance and diversify your skills and knowledge with work, volunteer, research and field study experiences while in university.

### EXAMPLES OF CAREER PATHS ENGLISH GRADUATES HAVE PURSUED:

English graduates can pursue a variety of career paths, including those that might not seem to have a direct connection to English at first glance. The following is a non-exhaustive list of some examples:

<b>DIRECT career paths:</b> The skills and knowledge acquired in an English education are often required or considered an asset in the following positions.	<b>LESS DIRECT career paths:</b> The generic skills and knowledge obtained in a liberal arts education are pertinent in the following positions.	The following paths <b>may require FURTHER STUDY or SPECIALIZED TRAINING*</b> in addition to a Bachelor of Arts in English.
<b>Advertising Copywriters</b> create advertising messages for all media (print, online, packaging, television). They work in advertising agencies or marketing departments.	<b>Aboriginal Liaison Officers</b> assist and coordinate communications between Aboriginal communities and business or government representatives. They work for corporations or government units.	<b>Communications Directors</b> oversee all internal and external communications of an organization. They work for corporations, educational institutions, or government and public agencies.
<b>Editorial Assistants</b> review and edit written texts for publications and many other media. They work for publishing firms, radio, television, magazines, newspapers and online media.	<b>ESL Teachers</b> plan and teach English lessons to non-native English speakers. They develop learning activities and assessment tools. They work in government agencies or educational institutions in Canada or internationally.	<b>Librarians</b> identify, acquire and manage necessary resources for a target community or group. They work in community, educational institutions or government libraries.
<b>Journalists</b> conduct research to gather information and write articles for print, online and broadcast media. They work for magazines, newspapers, radio or television stations, or independently.	<b>Manuscript Readers</b> review and evaluate submissions from writers. They work for publishing firms, or television and movie production companies.	<b>Translator/Interpreters</b> convert written and oral communications from one language to another. They work for translation agencies, foreign affairs departments, or independently.
<b>Technical Writers</b> develop and write guides and manuals for technical products, processes and procedures in simplified language and appropriate format. They work in a broad range of industries.	<b>Production Assistants</b> assist the director or producer with administrative duties. They work for radio/television stations, advertising agencies or media production companies.	*NOTE: Qualifications for similar jobs might vary depending on the employer. Try checking with the employer(s) you're interested in working for to see what they require and recommend in terms of education and/or experience.
<b>Web Content Writers</b> help organizations create and develop the content of their website. They work in consulting firms, marketing departments or independently.	<b>Public/Outreach Educators</b> plan, coordinate and deliver educational information to the public about certain issues or causes. They work for non-profit organizations, or public or government agencies.	

## WANT MORE INFORMATION? CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

### Available in MacEwan University Libraries:

- I'm an English Major---Now What? How English Majors Can Find Happiness, Success and a Real Job – *Tim Lemire*
- Editors and Editing: What Writers Need to Know About What Editors Do – *Gerald Gross*
- Making it in Public Relations: an Insider's Guide to Career Opportunities – *Leonard Mogel*
- Opportunities in Writing Careers – *Elizabeth Foote-Smith*
- The Freelance Success Book: Insider Secrets for Selling Every Word You Write – *David Taylor*
- Great Jobs for English Majors – *Julie DeGalan & Stephen E. Lambert*

### Additional Resources (Available Online):

- Alberta Playwrights' Network
- Canadian Association of Journalists
- Canadian Authors Association
- Cultural Human Resources Council
- Editors' Association of Canada
- League of Canadian Poets
- Playwrights Guild of Canada
- Stroll of Poets, Edmonton
- Writers Guild of Alberta
- Writers' Union of Canada

*"The study of English will make you grow in ways you don't expect, discover things you cannot imagine, and learn that the greatest quality in people and institutions is the interior richness that comes from humble curiosity, genuine understanding, and generosity of heart. It will also lead to career opportunities, for no one can think, write and communicate like an English graduate, and the world knows this."*

*Christina M. Grant  
(MacEwan Alumnus, 2008)*

## WANT TO DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS WITH SOMEONE?

- Book an appointment with a career advisor on [MacEwanLife](#) under "Career Advice and Support."
- Talk to an [English discipline advisor](#)

[MacEwan.ca/mycareer](https://macewan.ca/mycareer)

[Room: 7-121](#)

[mycareer@macewan.ca](mailto:mycareer@macewan.ca)

780-633-3512

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