What can I do with a Major in English?

The English Program at the University of Lethbridge

English is not just about the rhetorical and creative aspects of literature. It’s about examining history, culture, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and the human condition to determine what a text means in the context of when and where it was written, and how it relates to the world today.

Language is the primary means by which we communicate our values, our ideals and our vision. The study of English asks fundamental questions about literature and how we, as humans, express ourselves and interact with others. It is the science of communication and critical inquiry.

The English major, leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Arts and Science, provides students with an excellent foundation for a career in virtually any professional capacity due to its cross-disciplinary knowledge base.

Skills Developed

- Analytical Reading
- Communication
- Creative Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Editing
- Excellent Grammar & Vocabulary
- Information Management
- Knowledge of Interrelatedness of Social, Organizational & Global Issues
- Oral & Written Expression
- Oral Presentation
- Organization
- Presenting Persuasive Arguments
- Problem Solving
- Research
- Rhetoric
- Textual Analysis & Interpretation
- Work Independently

Work Environments

A major in English provides students with an excellent foundation for further academic pursuits in journalism, law, management or education. It also prepares students for a variety of career possibilities in a wide range of sectors and industries, such as advertising and marketing agencies, public relations firms, various media corporations, fundraising firms, academic and research institutions, governmental organizations, publishing companies, non-profit organizations, consulting firms, market research firms, communications firms, libraries, museums, financial institutions or theatre companies.

Key Areas of Specialization:
Rhetoric, Creative Writing, Language Study, Eighteenth-Century Literature, Romanticism, Commonwealth Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Medieval Literature, Renaissance Dramatic & Non-
Dramatic Literature, Literary Theory, Psychoanalytic Criticism, Irish Literature & Drama, Canadian Literature, Children’s Literature, American Literature, Interdisciplinary Modernism, Victorian Literature, Jewish Literature & Folklore, Old English & Textual Criticism

**Entry Level Job Titles**

These jobs are normally intended for new graduates and require 0 to 2 years of experience. It is important to note that many entry level positions require *some* related experience or demonstrated ability to perform job-related tasks. Even those positions that do not *require* experience will still prefer an experienced candidate, if one is available.

- Academic Advisor
- Business Development Specialist
- Content Creator/Copy Writer
- Content Writer
- Desk Editor
- Editor/Terminologist
- Editorial Assistant
- English Tutor
- Entry Level Event Manager
- ESL Teacher
- Filing Clerk
- Freelance Writer
- International Student Advisor
- Junior Contract Writer
- Junior Editor
- Library Branch Assistant
- Procedure & Permit Writer
- Proofreader
- Reporter/Columnist
- Section Editor

**Note:** The U of L offers various resources and programs to facilitate students in gaining work and volunteer experience. Find an entry level position on the [CES job board](#) or join the [Management](#) or [Arts & Science](#) Cooperative Education Programs. Summer jobs, part-time work, internship positions and volunteer experience help students to enhance their skillset and accumulate work experience for their future career.

**Related Job Titles**

These jobs generally require extensive, relevant work experience and/or further education.

- Account Coordinator/ Director
- Admissions Officer
- Advertising Administrator
- Advertising Consultant/ Director
- Advertising Copywriter
- Archivist
- Assignment Editor
- Associate News/Media Director
- Author
- Biographer
- Blogger
- Book Editor
- Broadcast Journalist
- Bureau Reporter
- Business Administrator
- Circulation Assistant
- Columnist
- Comic Book Author
- Communications Specialist
- Community Affairs Director
- Copy Editor
- Copywriter
- Corporate Communications Director
- Corporate Trainer
- Correspondent
- Creative Director
- Creative Writer
- Critic
- Curator
- Dictionary Editor
- Documentation Specialist
- Editor
- Editorial Assistant
- Educational Program Specialist
- Educational Researcher
- Electronic Publishing Specialist
- English as a Second Language Instructor
- Environmental Communicator/ Researcher
- Fiction Writer
- Freelance Journalist
- Freelance Writer
- Fundraiser
- Greeting Card Writer
- Human Resource Specialist
- Information Specialist
- Intelligence Officer
- International School Teacher
- Investigative Reporter
- Journalist
- Librarian
- Linguist

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• Literary Agent
• Literary Critic
• Lobbying Researcher
• Lobbyist
• Media Correspondent
• Media Planner/Researcher
• Media Sales Representative
• Media Specialist
• Medical Writer
• Motivational Speaker
• Museum Coordinator
• News Editor
• Novelist
• Playwright
• Policy Analyst/Researcher
• Political Campaign Worker
• Politician

• Press Agent
• Press Operator
• Print Journalist
• Producer
• Production Supervisor
• Professional Writer
• Program Coordinator/Director
• Proposal Writer
• Public Affairs Coordinator
• Public Office Administrator
• Public Relations Consultant/Specialist
• Public Relations Writer
• Public Speaking Consultant
• Publications Specialist
• Publicist

• Publisher
• Radio Host
• Researcher
• Satirist
• Science Writer
• Screenwriter
• Script Writer
• Speech/Technical Writer
• Sports Writer
• Teacher
• Technical Communicator
• Technical Editor/Writer
• Television Show Writer
• Travel Writer
• University Professor
• Web & New Media Writer
• Writer

**Thinking Outside the Box: Other Possible Job Titles**

On average, people change their careers three to five times in their lifetime. So, no matter what major you choose, you may still be interested in opportunities totally unrelated to your program of study. We encourage you to be open to all possibilities! Your undergraduate degree can be a springboard for other educational pursuits, and your transferable skills and experience can prepare you to work in a multitude of settings.

• Actor
• Airline Customer Service Representative/Steward
• Book Seller
• Career Planning Advisor
• Communications Manager
• Correctional Officer
• Crisis Manager
• Customer Service Representative
• Director/Casting Director
• Entrepreneur
• Event Coordinator/Planner
• Film Consultant
• Film Maker
• Film Production Assistant
• Foreign Service Worker
• Graphic Arts Designer
• Historical Researcher
• Historical Society Administrative Assistant
• Insurance Broker
• Interpreter/Translator
• Lawyer
• Legislative Aide
• Marketing Specialist
• Marketing Executive

• Marketing Researcher
• Non-profit Administrator
• Paralegal
• Sales Representative
• Sign Language Interpreter
• Special Events Coordinator
• Underwriter
• Volunteer Coordinator
• Web Site Designer

**Useful Resources**

Recommended websites to assist in exploring the field of English and its career opportunities.

Alberta Learning Information Service Occupational Profiles
Creative Writer, Editor, Reporter

Alberta English Language Arts Council
http://elacata.ca

Calgary Association of Freelance Editors
http://calgaryeditors.com

Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language
http://www.atesl.ca
Literacy Alberta  
http://www.literacyalberta.ca

Association of Canadian Publishers  
http://publishers.ca

Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians  
http://capalibrarians.org

Professional Writers Association of Canada  
http://pwac.ca

Canadian Authors  
http://canadianauthors.org/national/

The Canadian Association of Journalists  
http://www.caj.ca

Association of Canadian College & University Teachers of English  
http://accute.ca

Canadian Public Relations Society  
http://www.cprs.ca

Editors’ Association of Canada  
http://www.editors.ca

The Authors Guild  
http://www.authorsguild.org

Association of American Publishers  
http://www.publishers.org

Book Publishers’ Professional Association  
http://www.bppa.ca

The National Association of Independent Writers & Editors  
http://naiwe.com

Society for Technical Communication  
http://www.stc.org

Online Publishers Association  
http://www.online-publishers.org

Campus Resources

Career & Employment Services (CES)  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/

Career Counselling (Counselling Services)  
http://www.uleth.ca/counselling/

Academic Advising  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-advising

Native Student Advising  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/native-student-advising

Student Success Centre – Study Skills, Learning Strategies & Tutoring  
http://www.uleth.ca/student-success-centre/

Accommodated Learning Centre  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/

International Centre for Students  
http://www.uleth.ca/international/

Registrar Office & Student Services  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/

Scholarship & Students Finance  
http://www.uleth.ca/ross/student-finance/

U of L Students’ Union & Student Clubs  
http://www.ulsu.ca/
Campus Job Resources

Career & Employment Services Job Board  
CES Job board

Arts & Science Applied Studies  
http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/applied-studies/students

Arts & Science Co-op Education & Internship  
http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/coop

Management Co-op Education  
http://www.uleth.ca/management/co-op

Study Abroad & Exchanges  
http://www.uleth.ca/international/content/study-abroad-exchanges

Management Study Abroad & Exchanges  
http://www.uleth.ca/management/study-abroad

Career & Employment Services (CES)  
CES assists U of L students and graduates with their career exploration and work search needs.

AH154 Anderson Hall, Phone: 403-329-2000  
Mon- Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.