

Majors – English

Description

English is a major branch of the language arts and its main focus is on the written word. A broader definition includes the study of literature, speech and writing in all forms. English orients students to the discipline of thinking as they learn to read and listen to their own speaking and writing, to critically evaluate the speaking and writing of others, and to express their ideas and sentiments coherently. The appropriate use of English is considered basic to the American way of life and reflects a person's level of education. Specialized areas include writing, literature, reading and speech. An English major is an excellent major for a number of graduate or professional schools – medicine, law, business are the primary ones, aside from English graduate studies.

The University of Alabama offers a bachelor's degree, master's degree, master's in TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages), an M.F.A in creative writing and a doctorate in English. Please refer to the undergraduate and graduate catalogs, and website, for information on these programs.

Skills	Possible Employment Settings	Occupational Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Accuracy •Adapt ideas •Analyze complex ideas •Argue logically •Clarity •Coherence in writing/speech •Summarize •Define •Design/direct projects •Gather information •Generate ideas •Influence and persuade •Inform and explain •Problem-solving •Interpret instructions •Question conventions •Read for tone •Rewrite and edit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Advertising dept./firms •Business corporations •Colleges and schools •Department stores •Education department •Educational institutions •Film companies •Government agencies •Gov. Printing •Libraries •Literary periodical •Newspapers •Non-profit agencies •Office Library of Congress •Political action groups •Public relations firms •Publishing company •Radio/TV stations •Research firms •Travel agencies •Web-based publication co. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Author •Arts council •Bibliographer •Columnist •Copy writer •Comedy writer •Documents analyst •Editor •Editorial writer •Free-lance writer •Interviewer •Journalist •Lexicographer •Librarian •Marketing assistant •Opinion analyst •Reporter •Script writer •Teacher •TV/radio announcer

Typical Work Activities

- Act, perform
- Inform, organize
- Solve problems
- Compose, write
- Lead discussions
- Teach, explain
- Enlighten, guide
- Research, synthesize
- Work independently

Career Center Resources

- **Career Opportunities for Writers**, by Rosemary Guiley, 2000
- **Great Jobs for English Majors**, by DeGalan & Lambert, 2006
- **Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors**, by Blythe Camenson, 2002
- **Opportunities in Journalism Careers**, by Ferguson & Patten, 2001
- **I'm an English Major, now What?**, by Tim Lemire, 2006
- **What can you do with a Major in English?**, by Shelly O'Hara, 2005