What Can I Do With A Major In…
English?

DIRECT Career Options

The skills required for the jobs listed here are so similar to the skills acquired in studying English that a degree in the field will usually serve as a credential for getting the job.

Advertising Copywriter
   Writes advertising copy for display in all media: newspaper, magazine, billboard, packaging, television, radio.

Copy Editor/ Copy Reader
   Edits printed copy for grammatical and stylistic errors. Works in a variety of settings: book and magazine publishers, newspapers, advertising agencies, in-house publications of business and agency newsletters and releases.

Corporate Communications Specialist
   Writes press releases, speeches, annual reports, and other material to promote a corporation and its image. Works for all corporations in all fields.

Film Researcher/Copywriter
   Reviews scripts, checks for factual and technical accuracy, rewrites copy, assists in creating storyboard representations of scenes. Relevant coursework or prior experience preferred. Works for entertainment, documentary, educational, and industrial film producers.

Freelance Writer
   Writes for publications on an assignment basis for a negotiated fee, usually after submittal of a query letter proposing ideas for articles or stories. Typically works as an independent contractor.

Policy And Procedures Analyst
   Writes manuals on internal operating procedures and policies. Works for employers in all fields.

Reporter/Staff Writer
   Works and writes for a publication on a regular basis. Usually works under pressure of deadlines on general assignments before specializing in a particular area. In addition to newspapers and magazines, employers include corporations and agencies with in-house newsletters.

Secondary School Teacher
   Instructs high school and junior high school students in specialized subject areas. Most secondary school teachers teach several courses in a single subject area. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

Technical Writer
   Researches, writes and edits publications that communicate scientific technical information to readers with no technical background. Employers include corporations, professional associations, and government agencies.
LESS DIRECT Career Options

The fit between the academic training in English and the job skills is still very close. However, knowledge of English may be less pertinent to these positions, and a degree in English itself may or may not serve as a credential for employment.

Customer Service Representative
Handles customer relations, usually through direct contact with customers or clients. Researches and responds to complaints and informational inquiries, seeking both to meet the customers' needs and promote the image and reputation of the employer. Works for manufacturers, retailers, service industries, and social service organizations.

Educational Researcher
Creates new educational methods and materials; assesses the effectiveness of existing methods and materials. Employers include school districts, private schools, manufacturers of educational equipment, educational publishers, and national testing organizations.

Environmental Communications Specialist
Conducts community relations and liaison work regarding environmental issues in fields such as: earth, marine, and atmospheric sciences; mining; forestry; public works; and parks, wildlife, and water management. Works for government agencies, consulting firms, citizens' groups, research laboratories, scientific associations, and industry.

Historical Research Assistant
Does historical analysis; studies policy issues; prepares analytical reports; coordinates interdisciplinary studies. Works for "think tanks", universities, public research agencies.

Institutional Researcher/Historian
Writes institutional and policy histories; researches and reports on current issues, long-range trends; edits public records, manages archives. Works for executive, legislative, and judicial agencies, international institutions, military services, cultural agencies, planning agencies, public archives and libraries, private industries and corporations.

Legislative Aide
Performs research, writing and liaison functions for a state or U.S. senator or congressional representative or for a municipal officer holder. Positions typically secured through direct contact with officeholder.

Market Research Assistant
Undertakes the preliminary research for a market study, gathering data concerning competitors' products, organizing existing sales records, etc. Also assists in writing final project reports. Works for market research firms, advertising agencies, manufacturers, and retailers.

Public Relations/Public Information Specialist
Assesses the public relations needs of an organization, and plans and implements programs to meet them. Distinct from advertising. Makes public appearances, produces special events, and prepares press releases and packets to generate favorable free publicity. Works for professional agencies, for businesses of all kinds, and for nonprofit and social service organizations.
Academic Advisor/Advisor Counselor
Advises students at all levels on selection of courses and majors. Sometimes involves career counseling. Sometimes requires certification.

Archivist/Historian
Accesses and organizes records and documents; conducts historical research to verify authenticity and significance of historical material. Conducts tours, presents lectures on historical topics. Works for libraries, historical museums, historical sites.

Alumni Affairs Coordinator
Produces educational programs, social events, and special tours for alumni; writes alumni publications; coordinates fund raising and reunion activities. Works for college and university alumni affairs offices.

Career Planning And Placement Counselor
Assists individuals in setting and implementing career and job-search goals, teaches decision-making and job-search skills, networks among employers for interviewing opportunities and internships, develops related library resources. Employers include private firms and universities and colleges.

Customer Training Specialist
Teaches customers to use a product. Assists in development of course materials and coordinates the use of training facilities and equipment. Works primarily for high-tech manufacturers and retailers.

Graphic Arts Designer
Generates and supervises the execution of the overall design idea or "look" of advertisements or other graphic arts projects. May not personally draw or paint. Works for ad agencies, retailers, book, magazine, and newspaper publishers.

Historical Museum Administrative Assistant
Organizational administration; analyzes, preserves, displays, and interprets historical material; publicizes programs; researches and produces presentations and exhibits. Works for museums of history and for historical exhibition projects.

Intelligence Officer
Researches and analyzes a diversity of geopolitical issues on behalf of the government. Employed by intelligence services such as the F.B.I., the C.I.A., the National Security Agency, and military intelligence agencies. Work requires testing and security clearance.

Library Aide
Administers school, corporate, or public library facilities. Jobs in technical and user services. Technical services deal with acquiring and preparing materials. User services deal directly with people using library facilities.

Preschool And Elementary School Teacher
Teaches basic academic and social skills to young children. Often teaches a variety of subjects to a single class or grade level. Public schools generally require certification; private schools typically do not.

Publications Design And Layout Assistant
Using graphic design and layout skills, produces visually appealing publications as economically as possible. Works for publishers of books, magazines, and newspapers.