

**Achieving an excellent education is about many things:** becoming a well-educated citizen, gaining knowledge for thoughtful and well-considered decisions, engaging your curiosity, and developing skills that will contribute to the greater good, for example. In addition, your education also prepares you to pursue a **wide variety of career paths.**

**Depth of knowledge** generally refers to the information and ways of thinking that are directly related to your academic major. In addition, you have developed an **incredibly important set of more general skills:** to think analytically and critically; to view issues in context and from multiple perspectives; to ask and address questions about ethical and societal implications; to pursue research; to engage your creativity; and to communicate complex issues clearly. Thus, **English majors** offer an array of skills which are **highly valued by employers** from all sectors.

**Many Possibilities.** Because your major is not narrowly focused on specific career paths, you have a wide array of professional options. While this kind of career flexibility is definitely good news, it does require you to be more **proactive** in identifying and articulating your skills to potential employers.

**Ready for the Work World.** The top five critical skills identified by employers in a recent national survey were:

- Ability to communicate clearly
- Interpersonal / Teamwork skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making abilities
- Ability to find and process information
- Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize

*You have undoubtedly developed these skills while studying at UW.*

### **JOB SKILLS RELATED TO ENGLISH MAJORS**

Here are even more career-related skills and strengths that employers value:

Read/interpret/synthesize complex material  
See situations from multiple perspectives  
Produce effective persuasive writing  
Write/revise for wide variety of audiences  
Design and implement engaging presentations  
Understand nuance and subtlety  
Handle ambiguity adeptly  
Apply mental agility to creative problem-solving  
Understand the broader context  
Gather, analyze, organize, interpret data  
Summarize concisely and accurately  
Link abstract concepts to practical applications  
Understand human nature & its variations  
Perceive patterns, structures, relationships

Identify and explore implications  
Propose and support recommendations  
Simultaneously see big picture and details  
Engage intellectual curiosity  
Conduct research  
Bring motivation, imagination, enthusiasm, initiative  
Compare, contrast information / Draw conclusions  
Work well individually and on teams  
Understand & appreciate cultural diversity  
Understand how data can be interpreted in many ways  
Assess audiences to communicate appropriately  
Write, revise, edit, proofread  
And many more!

### **NEXT PAGE: ACTUAL JOBS IN THESE THREE CATEGORIES:**

1. English is *required/preferred* and the job's *primary* responsibilities directly relate to your major
2. English is *required/preferred* but job's *primary* responsibilities aren't directly related to English

3. English *isn't required or preferred* but your other transferable skills make you highly qualified

*In some cases, actual employers are included to convey the variety of employers.*

*Most positions listed here are **entry-level**. Remember that, usually, you needn't have every single qualification in order to apply.*

**1. English major may be *Required* and the job's primary duties directly relate to English (Entry Level):**

English Teacher/Instructor (all levels, many)

Literature Tutor/Teacher; Grammar Tutor

Writing Specialist (University of Alaska)

Online Editor (Automobile Magazine)

Communications Editor Associate (Lockheed Martin)

Editorial Temp (National Geographic Magazine, International Editions); Editorial Assistant (Presbyterian Church)

AWP Publications Assistant (Association of Writers & Writing Programs, George Mason University)

Editor, SparkNotes (Barnes & Noble); Editor I/ Staff Editor (Source Interlink Media)

Technical Writer (Aerotek, many others)

Web Content Editor (Elements Behavioral Health)

Content Editor (Ascent Learning)

Associate Technical Editor (SENTEL Corporation)

Writer/Editor (U.S. Department of Energy)

Writer and Content Manager (Securing America's Future Energy)

Editorial Assistant Entry Level (Random House Publishing Group)

Book Awards Intern (The Commonwealth Club of California)

Literary Management Associate (Goodman Theatre)

Creative Writer (Boston Interactive, Aquent)

Creative Writer/Research Internship (Hardwired)

Writing Intern (Promotion LA)

**2. English is required/preferred but job's primary duties aren't directly related to English (Entry Level):**

Research Analyst (NBC Universal)

Press and Social Media Assistant/Intern (Global Science & Technology)

Public Affairs Specialist (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Director, Communications (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials)

Catalog Production Assistant (Pottery Barn Kids)

Copywriter (Fashion)

Policies and Procedures Writer - Entry Level (Rushmore Home Loan Management Services)

English Content Creator (MODIS)

Web Writer and Research Analyst (Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington)

Communications Associate / Digital Communicator (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

Administrative Specialist (A Wider Circle)

English/Language Arts (ELA) Passage Searcher (WestEd)

Literary Agency Intern (Emma Sweeney Agency)

Communications Specialist, Health System Development (University of Virginia)

**3. English major *isn't required or preferred* but your other transferable skills make you highly qualified (Entry Level):**

Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator (EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases), Research Associate (Environmental Law Institute), Knowledge Assistant (Children's Law Center), Recruitment & Admissions Assistant (Fund for American Studies), Partner Support Coordinator (Kiva Microfunds), Assistant Community Outreach Coordinator (Next Step Living), Change Corps Assistant Organizing Director (Work for Progress), Investigative Advocate (Disability Rights Washington), City Year - Corps Member (City Year Seattle/King County), Financial Advisor (ING Financial Partners), Patient Services Representative (Seattle Reproductive Medicine), Outreach Coordinator (MedBridge Education), Junior Project Manager (HealthPath Education), Internet Marketing Specialist (Chair 10 Marketing), Immigration Assistant/Receptionist (Law Firm), Marketing Coordinator (Yext), Associate Account Strategist, SMB Sales, Account Coordinator, Employee Benefits (MCM), Executive Team Leader (Target), Service Coordinator (Choice Program)

*More:* Project Manager, Social Media Campaign Developer, Policy and Advocacy Specialist

***These are just some examples. The Career Center can help you find positions that meet your goals!***