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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... ENGLISH

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### OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

“Besides teaching and literary research, a major in English can lead to professional careers in archival and curatorial librarianship, publishing, journalism, advertising and the arts; as well as human resources, sales and marketing, management, and government work. Even when additional qualifications are needed, as in law, an undergraduate major in English is often a distinct advantage” (from UNM Course Catalog). UNM’s English department offers five different areas of concentration: liberal arts, pre-graduate, professional writing, pre-law, and creative writing. It also offers a major in English-Philosophy.

### EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. Some areas may require a graduate degree, or may assist employment in highly competitive areas. English is a broad degree that can lead to job opportunities in many diverse fields. Therefore, it is critical that students gain related experience and skills through internships, part-time work, or volunteering in their field of interest as undergraduates. Information on English-related internships can be found on the UNM’s Department of English website at: <http://www.unm.edu/~english/Undergrad/Internships/Index.htm>

### EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

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**Writing/Editing:** Creative writing – Journalism – Freelance – Technical writing

**Suggested Strategy:** Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or newsletters. Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center. For technical writing, obtain a concentration in professional writing. Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing, and cultivate other career opportunities to supplement income. Select elective coursework to supplement areas of interest. Consider an advanced degree for greater employability.

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**Education:** Public schools – Private schools – Colleges and universities – Libraries – Private learning centers

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain volunteer experience working with youth in a tutoring or teaching capacity. Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching (consult the College of Education). A graduate degree is required for college teaching.

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**Publishing:** Editing – Advertising – Sales – Circulation – Production - Publicity

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain experience in an area of the publishing industry. Participate in a summer publishing institute. Work on student publications. Conduct an informational interview with a publishing professional. Develop strong editing skills.

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**Advertising:** Creative – Media – Research – Advertising agencies – In-house agencies of large companies

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain strong statistics background for market research positions. Create portfolio of your writing. Obtain campus newspaper, TV, or radio experience. Complete an internship in a market research firm or ad agency. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, art, or graphic design. Be prepared to start in an entry-level position.

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**Public Relations:** Research – Writing – Editing – Media – PR firm – Ad agencies – Government agency – Nonprofit organizations

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain related experience in area of interest. Supplement curriculum with C&J courses in PR or business. Develop strong research, public speaking, and interpersonal skills.

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**Law:** Law firms – Corporate legal departments – Government agencies – Public service agencies

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain experience in a law firm. Complete paralegal training or earn law degree. Become skillful in debate and public speaking. Pursue pre-law emphasis of English degree, and seek pre-law advising through College of Arts and Science.

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**Business/Industry:** Management – Sales – Marketing – Human Resources – Insurance (claims, underwriting)

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain related experience in area of interest. Supplement curriculum with business courses or a minor. Secure leadership roles in campus organizations. Join student professional associations.

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**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

National Council of Teachers in English  
Magazine Publishers of America  
American Copy Editors Society  
The Writer's Resource Center  
Society for Technical Communication  
Artist Resource  
The Writer  
Book Jobs  
Publishing Central  
Write Jobs  
News Jobs  
National Council for Teachers of English

<http://www.ncte.org/>  
<http://www.magazine.org/home/>  
<http://www.copydesk.org/>  
<http://www.poewar.com/>  
<http://www.stc.org/>  
<http://www.artistresource.org/>  
<http://www.writermag.com/wrt/>  
<http://www.bookjobs.com/index.php>  
<http://www.publishingcentral.com/>  
<http://www.writejobs.com/>  
<http://www.newsjobs.net/>  
<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/careers>

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

 <http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>