English Language & Literature

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. In our diverse world, effective communication skills are becoming increasingly important, making English a central liberal arts concentration. As an English major you will study the structure, content, and cultural context of imaginative literature in all genres; explore theories of language, literature, and culture; and develop your ability to mold and interpret language in speech and writing. Through this study, you will develop a broad range of research, analytical, and communication skills.

Related fields include Linguistics, Classical Studies, Communications Studies, Screen Arts and Cultures, History, History of Art, Music, and Theater.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research and Project Skills</th>
<th>Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Writing Skills</th>
<th>Speaking Skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>Designing /directing projects</td>
<td>Analyzing and interpreting text</td>
<td>Abstracting information</td>
<td>Influencing and persuading</td>
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<td>Organizing ideas/ information</td>
<td>Comparing information and interpretations</td>
<td>Explaining data</td>
<td>Assessing the needs of an audience</td>
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<td>Developing hypotheses</td>
<td>Applying theoretical approaches</td>
<td>Drafting and editing documents</td>
<td>Presenting alternative viewpoints</td>
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<td>Solving problems</td>
<td>Developing critical evaluations</td>
<td>Editing and revising text</td>
<td>Clarifying ideas</td>
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<td>Using information resources</td>
<td>Thinking independently</td>
<td>Writing clearly and persuasively</td>
<td>Making oral presentations</td>
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<td>Synthesizing ideas and themes</td>
<td>Writing creatively</td>
<td>Shaping general ideas into specific points and programs</td>
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<td>Applying close reading and interpretation</td>
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BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. The Undergraduate English Association is responsible for a fortnightly newsletter, sponsors various events, and publishes an annual literary magazine, Xylem, of poetry, prose, and artwork. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

The excellent communication skills developed by English concentrators are applicable to a wide range of careers whether in business, communication, government, or public service. For example, writing skills are equally useful whether working as a journalist, high school teacher, or web designer. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by English graduates.

**Research and Project Skills**
- Research Assistant
- Librarian
- Law librarian
- Legislative aide
- Congressional researcher
- Convention planner
- Bookstore manager
- Buyer, retail store
- Market researcher
- Psychometrist
- Patient education officer, HMO
- Program coordinator

**Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills**
- Programmer/Analyst
- Attorney
- Counselor/Psychologist
- Social worker
- Foreign Service officer
- Curriculum planner
- Industrial analyst
- City manager

**Writing Skills**
- Creative writer
- Technical writer
- Speech writer
- Journalist
- Drama, art, & music critic
- Web writer
- Newsletter writer
- Editor
- Publications coordinator
- Editorial assistant
- Web designer
- Advertising copywriter
- Reading specialist

**Speaking Skills**
- K-12 teacher
- College instructor
- Peace Corps/Teach for America teacher
- Speech Therapist
- Sales manager
- Training consultant
- Public relations representative
- Politician
- Lobbyist

= Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at http://online.onetcenter.org/

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department of English offers four concentration options: the General Program, Honors, Creative Writing, and Teaching Certification. English 298 (What is Literature?) is a prerequisite for all programs. Students planning to concentrate in English should contact the department for printed information or look up the website and then consult a concentration advisor.

**Department of English Language and Literature**
3187 Angell Hall
734-764-6330
www.lsa.umich.edu/english

**Newman Advising Center**
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
www.lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

At the English website, you will find profiles of UM English majors in all kinds of careers:
www.lsa.umich.edu/english/careers/default.asp

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:
https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu
www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich
http://twitter.com/careercenter