



STUDENT LIFE

THE CAREER CENTER

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

Research and Project Skills

- Designing /directing projects
- Organizing ideas/ information
- Developing hypotheses
- Solving problems
- Using information resources

Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills

- Analyzing and interpreting text
- Comparing information and interpretations
- Applying theoretical approaches
- Developing critical evaluations
- Thinking independently
- Synthesizing ideas and themes
- Applying close reading and interpretation

Writing Skills

- Abstracting information
- Explaining data
- Drafting and editing documents
- Editing and revising text
- Writing clearly and persuasively
- Writing creatively

Speaking Skills

- Influencing and persuading
- Assessing the needs of an audience
- Presenting alternative viewpoints
- Clarifying ideas
- Making oral presentations
- Shaping general ideas into specific points and programs

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
Psychometrician 
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 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
lsa.umich.edu/english

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS / RESOURCES

At the English website, you will find profiles of UM English majors in all kinds of careers:

lsa.umich.edu/english/careers/default.asp

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:

careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

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On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:

studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
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