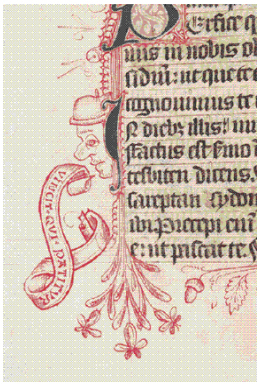
# What Can I Do with a Major in English






## OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

Concordia University's Department of English offers a full range of programs including a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing as well as a Minor in Creative Writing, a Minor in English Literature, and a Minor in Professional Writing. At the graduate level it offers a Master of/Magisteriate in Arts (English). The latest information on programs and courses, as well as profiles of faculty, can be found on the Department's web site at: http://english.concordia.ca.

A non-credit Certificate in Creative Writing Fundamentals is offered by Concordia's Centre for Continuing Education. Information on the program can be found on the Centre's web site at http://cce.concordia.ca.

**CELEBRATED ENGLISH MAJORS**

Richard Monette. Canadian Actor/Director. Concordia Alumnus
Toni Morrison. Author/Editor/Professor. Nobel Prize Winner
Michael Eisner. Former Chair and CEO of Walt Disney Co.
Rosamund Pike. Actress
Paul Simon. Grammy Award-winning Singer/Song Writer
Barbara Walters. Broadcast Journalist and T.V. Personality

## EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY RECENT CONCORDIA GRADUATES

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified for upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/.

- Copywriter (5121)
- Document Reviewer
- Editorial Assistant (1452)
- ESL Teacher (4131, 4141)
- Freelance Writer (5121)
- Grant Writer (5121)
- Journalist (5123)
- Junior Creative Writer (5121)
- Junior Editor (5122)
- Junior Technical Writer (5121)
- Library Assistant (5211)
- Linguist (4169)
- Paralegal Assistant (4211)
- Proofreader (1452)
- Reporter (5123)
- Research Assistant (4122, 4164)
- Research Intern (4122, 4164)
- Script Writer (5121)
- Short Story Writer (5121)
- Writer (5121)

## MORE JOB TITLES

English majors develop a broad range of skills that are useful for success in a variety of fields. Teaching and writing are the most obvious choices but there are a wide variety of other career options. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which English majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/.

- Account Executive (1122)
- Actor/Actress (5135)
- Administrator
- Advertising Assistant (1452)
- Alumni Relations Officer
- Attorney (4112)
- Author (5121)
- Biographer (5121)
- Book Critic (5123)
- Book Publishing Professional (0512)
- Bookstore Manager (0621)
- Comedy Writer (5121)
- Copy Editor (5122)
- Corporation Lawyer (4112)
- Crossword Puzzle Maker (5121)
- Curator (5112)
- Drama Critic (5123)
- Editor (5122)
- Foreign Correspondent (5123)
- Fundraiser (5124)
- Greeting Card Writer (5121)
- Indexer
- Insurance Agent (6231)
- Literary Agent (5124)
- Lyricist (5132)
- Magazine Editor (5122)
- Management Trainee

- Manuscript Proofreader (1452)
- Narrator (5135)
- Novelist (5121)
- Playwright (5121)
- Poet (5121)
- Politician (0011)
- Public Relations Professional (5124)
- Public Speaking Consultant (6481)
- Publications Researcher
- Publicity Agent (5124)
- Reading Specialist (4143)
- Sales Analyst Script Writer (5121)
- Secondary School Teacher (4141)
- Speech Writer (5121)
- Stockbroker (1113)
- Technical Writer (5121)
- Television Producer (5131)
- Television Reporter (5123)
- Translator (5125)
- Travel Writer (5121)
- Tutor (4216, 4131, 4122)
- University Professor (4121)
- Web Editor (5122)

## POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

An English degree provides the necessary foundation on which to build careers in government, business, and education as well as those in cultural and communication industries. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, consult the many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Advertising Firms
- Archives
- Arts Councils
- Art Galleries
- Bookstores
- Community Services
- Educational Institutions
- Ethnic and Cultural Organizations
- Government (Federal, Provincial, and Municipal)
- Film Industry
- Historical Societies
- Hospitality Industry
- Insurance Companies
- International Development Agencies
- Libraries
- Marketing & Marketing Research
- Museums
- Non Profit Organizations
- Public Relations
- Publishing Companies
- Radio & TV Stations
- Real Estate Firms
- Retail Companies
- Telecommunications Industry
- Theatres
- Travel and Tourism Agencies

## SKILLS and CHARACTERISTICS

The study of English develops a wide range of skills and knowledge that can be applied to many different jobs. English students have a firm grasp of literary genres and authors and have a high reading and writing proficiency. They also have an excellent command of grammar and vocabulary and are very good at analyzing and summarizing written material. In addition, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in these fields.

- Ability to Compare Interpretations
- Ability to Think Independently
- Computer Skills (Word Processing)
- Concentration
- Creative Thinking
- Creative Writing
- Critical Judgement
- Detail Oriented
- Editing Skills
- Good Communications
- Highly Literate
- Knowledge of the Structure and Function of Language
- Listening and Questioning Skills
- Persuasive
- Organizational Skills
- Proficient in Conducting Library Research
- Time Management Ability
- Understanding of Literature/Literary Criticism

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

### Canadian

Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)
http://www.accute.ca

This association represents faculty teaching English in Canadian universities and colleges and students studying English at the graduate level. ACCUTE's newsletter, journal and sessional online discussion groups allow you to keep up with current issues in the field and with scholarly/professional concerns.

Association of Canadian Publishers
http://www.publishers.ca

The ACP is composed of Canadian-owned book publishers. Its purpose is to promote writing, publishing and distribution of Canadian books. Maintains a database of member publishers searchable by category and province. Check *Links* for *book fairs and trade shows*.

Canadian Authors Association
http://www.canauthors.org/

A national organization of "writers helping writers" whose purpose is to support and develop the Canadian writing community. Its conferences allow members to network with people of like interest and mingle with publishers and agents. Site also has many useful links for writers.

Canadian Public Relations Society
http://www.cprs.ca

Much of interest can be found on this site for those wishing to explore a public relations career. Student members can benefit from information on awards, seminars, conferences, and employment.

Editors' Association of Canada
http://www.editors.ca

This organization offers training, certification and professional development opportunities. For employment purposes, it maintains a searchable online directory of editors.

L'Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois
http://www.uneq.qc.ca/

This organization works to promote Quebec literature both within and outside of the province. Distributes prizes, awards and grants. Scan the *Plan du Site* to see services and programs of interest to writers.

Magazines Canada
http://magazinescanada.ca

One of Canada's leading professional magazine associations. Provides a job board and facilities to post your resume. Check out what this organization can offer for upgrading your skills and furthering your career.

## International

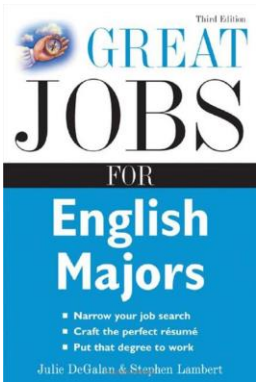
Modern Language Association
http://www.mla.org

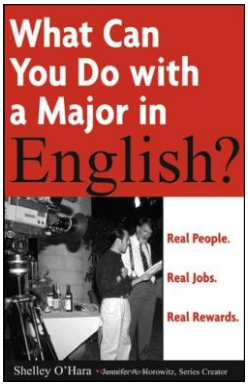
Established in 1883, MLA is a nonprofit professional organization of teachers of English and modern languages. It provides opportunities for members to share their scholarly work and discuss trends in their areas of interest. Produces journals, a newsletter and bulletins as well as provides the *Job List.* Discover what organizations like this can do to help you develop your career.

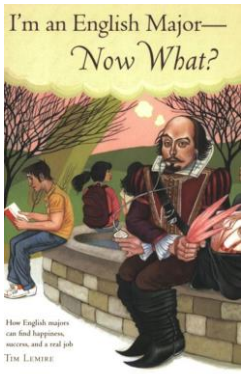
# Creating Your Amazing Career

## CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.♣




- Canadian Writer's Market
- Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types
- Career Opportunities in Education
- Career Opportunities in the Publishing Industry
- Careers for English Majors Panel Discussion – DVD Format
- Careers for Writers Panel Discussion – DVD Format
- Careers in Writing
- How to Make a Living As a Poet

- I’m an English Major - Now What?
- Jump Start Your Career in Library Science
- On the Market:  Strategies for a Successful Academic Job Search
- Opportunities in Technical Writing Careers
- Smart Moves for Liberal Arts Grads:  Finding a Path to Your Perfect Career
- Teaching English Abroad
- The Screenwriting Life:  The Dreams, the Job and the Reality
- Video Scriptwriting
- What Can You Do With a Major in English?