

English majors examine literature, linguistics, writing techniques, and the creative process. They think critically by learning to weigh evidence, identify assumptions, evaluate persuasive appeals, and recognize faulty reasoning. Through the study of English, students develop communication techniques and learn how to analyze and synthesize rhetoric and writing. Majors in this field explore the writing process and develop original works including poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and expository pieces.



A degree in English can provide students with a set of skills and abilities that will help prepare them for any career. Employers value the ability to solve problems and to present ideas in effective language to a wide range of audiences. A degree in English can also prepare students to continue their education in writing, literature, library sciences, business, public administration, law, and many other fields.

Students majoring in [English](#) at Colorado Mesa University learn to organize ideas, assert and defend claims, and conduct research. Small class sizes at CMU allow students to work closely with professors who are experts in their field. Our English faculty remain current in their field by continuing to publish in the areas of linguistics, literature, and creative writing. CMU English students also have the opportunity to gain editing experience working on one of the [English Department's literary magazines](#): *The Literary Review* or *Pinyon*. Both journals offer practicum experiences, paid positions, and publication opportunities.

### English majors in the workplace may:

- Compose original works such as novels, stories, articles, promotional materials, technical manuals, grants, legal agreements, web publications, etc.
- Proofread, research, organize, create and/or edit various materials.
- Teach English at a primary or secondary school, a college, or at a community education center.

### Major Skills & Characteristics

- Creative and imaginative
- Ability to assess, persuade and influence audiences
- Ability to synthesize information
- Ability to understand diverse viewpoints
- Ability to work independently or in teams
- Critical thinking and analysis skills
- Oral and written communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Research, editing and organizing skills

## Organizations That Commonly Employ English Majors

- Colleges and universities
- Schools (public and private)
- Publishing companies
- News agencies
- Political organizations
- Professional Associations
- Law firms
- Advertising and public relations firms
- Federal, state and local government organizations
- Non-profit organization

## Related Careers

- Account Executive
- Actor/Actress
- Administrative/Executive Assistant
- Advertising/Promotions Manager
- Author
- Biographer
- Business Manager
- Buyer
- Clerk for court or other government agencies
- College Administrator
- College Professor
- Columnist/Commentator
- Comedy Writer
- Communications Manager
- Community Organizer
- Copywriter/Copy Editor
- Creative Writer
- Critic
- Crossword Puzzle Writer
- Curator
- Customer Service Rep
- Design Specialist
- Desktop Publisher
- Development Director/Alumni Relations
- Documentation Specialist
- Editor/Editorial Assistant
- Education & Training Specialist
- Educational Program Specialist
- ESL/ESOL Teacher
- Filmmaker
- Foreign Correspondent
- Freelance Writer/Consultant
- Fundraiser/Grant Writer
- Greeting Card Writer
- Humorist/Comedian
- Information Broker
- Institutional Researcher
- Intelligence Officer
- Interpreter & Translator
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Legislative Analyst
- Legislative Assistant
- Librarian/Library Assistant
- Literary Agent
- Lobbyist
- Magazine Writer
- Management Consultant
- Manuscript Reader
- Market Research Analyst
- Marketing Specialist
- Marketing Writer
- Media Planner
- Mediator
- Narrator
- Novelist
- Paralegal/Legal Assistant
- Personnel Manager
- Playwright
- Poet
- Politician/Political Campaign Staffer
- Program Manager
- Proofreader
- Public Administrator
- Public Relations Specialist
- Public Speaker
- Publicity Assistant
- Publisher/Publishing Assistant
- Radio-TV Commentator
- Reading Consultant
- Reporter
- Research Assistant
- Researcher/Pollster
- Sales Representative
- Script Reader
- Special Events Coordinator
- Speech Writer
- Sports Writer
- Stockbroker
- Talent/Entertainment Agent
- Teacher (all levels)
- Technical Consultant
- Technical Writer
- Training Specialist
- Travel Writer
- Underwriter
- Video Scriptwriter/Producer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Writer

**Note:** Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond a Bachelor's Degree. To research these occupations use the Career Research Resources links below.

## Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

**O\*NET-Online:** <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

**Occupational Outlook Handbook:** [http://www.bls.gov/oco/oooh\\_index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oco/oooh_index.htm)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Use the A-Z index to select the occupation you are researching
- Find information on **Authors, Writers, and Editors** at:  
<http://www.bls.gov/oooh/media-and-communication/writers-and-authors.htm>

**My Future.com:** <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

## Organizations and Associations Links

- American Copy Editors Society: [www.copydesk.org](http://www.copydesk.org)
- Investigative Reporters & Editors: [www.ire.org](http://www.ire.org)
- National Education Association [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)
- National Council of Teachers of English: [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)
- National Writers Union: [nwu.org](http://nwu.org)
- Publishers Weekly: [publishersweekly.com](http://publishersweekly.com)
- Small Publishers, Artists and Writers Network: [spawn.org](http://spawn.org)
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages: [careers.tesol.org](http://careers.tesol.org)
- Writer's Digest: [www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com)

## Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- Advertising and Media Jobs Page: [www.nationjob.com/media](http://www.nationjob.com/media)
- Bookjobs: [www.bookjobs.com](http://www.bookjobs.com)
- The Chronicle of Higher Education Career Network: [chronicle.com/jobs](http://chronicle.com/jobs)
- Idealist.org non-profit job listings: [www.idealists.org/info/Careers](http://www.idealists.org/info/Careers)
- JournalismJobs.com: [www.journalismjobs.com/index.cfm](http://www.journalismjobs.com/index.cfm)
- Poets and Writers job listings: [www.pw.org/joblistings](http://www.pw.org/joblistings)
- Writers Guild of America, West: [www.wga.org/index.aspx](http://www.wga.org/index.aspx)
- Writers Guild of America, East: [www.wgaeast.org/index.php?id=53](http://www.wgaeast.org/index.php?id=53)
- The Write Jobs: [www.writejobs.com](http://www.writejobs.com)
- TV Jobs: Broadcast Employment Services: [www.tvjobs.com/index\\_a.htm](http://www.tvjobs.com/index_a.htm)