



ENGLISH

Program Objectives

The USM English major is devoted to the study of language, literature, and culture. Focusing upon the British and American literary traditions, the major exposes students to a range of literature in different historical eras. It also offers students the opportunity to explore other traditions such as Irish or Canadian literature, women's writing, and African-American writing. In addition to literatures written in English, course offerings include world literatures in translation from the classical to contemporary eras.

English majors are continually engaged in articulating their ideas and in developing persuasive arguments; therefore, graduates are well-prepared for careers in many areas. Medical, law, and business schools, in particular, regards English majors as desirable applicants. USM graduates also enter professional and graduate schools, including programs in English, writing, and cultural studies.

Degrees & Concentrations Offered

Graduation Planner: usm.maine.edu/advising/degreeplanning

Degree Offered: Bachelors of Arts

Major Offered: English, English Teacher Education K-8 Certification, English Teacher Education 7-12 Certification

Minor Offered: English, Writing, Public and Professional Writing

Department of English

Portland Campus, 311 Luther Bonney Hall
(207) 780-4291

Web Address: usm.maine.edu/eng

Facebook: [USM English Department Alumni](#)

Career Possibilities*

Academic Advisor
Advertising Writer or Executive
Art Director
Book Critic
Business Manager, Executive or Administrator
Copy Writer
Court Reporter
Creative Writer
Critic or Reviewer
Editor
Human Resources Representative
Journalist
Lawyer or Judge
Librarian
Marketing Research Journalist or Editor
Media
Museum Curator
Novelist or Screen Writer
Politician
Press Secretary
Public Relations Specialist
Publisher
Songwriter
Teacher or Professor
Television and Radio Broadcaster
Tutor
Writer: freelance, speech, technical

* Additional education, training or experience may be required.

Acquired Transferable Skills

Active Learning and Listening
Argument and Persuasion
Critical and Creative Thinking
Judgment and Decision Making
Learning Strategies
Monitoring
Reading Comprehension and Analysis
Research, Synthesis and Presentation
Social Perception and Open-Mindedness
Speech Writer
Writing

For more information on transferable skills go to:
usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/career-tools

What can I do with this major?*

AREA	EMPLOYERS	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
Writing/Editing Creative Writing Journalism Freelance Writing	Newspaper & Magazines Internet sites Broadcast media companies Technical industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select elective coursework in a particular area of interest. • Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or departmental or program newsletters. • Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center. • Become familiar with the proposal writing and submission process involved in freelance writing.
Education	Public and private K-12 schools Colleges and universities Language institutes Libraries & Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain appropriate state certification for public school teaching. • Seek volunteer experiences working with children through Big Brother/Sister programs, tutoring, summer camps, YMCA's, etc. • Get involved in roles of leadership such as resident advisor, peer mentor, student advisor, etc.
Advertising	Advertising agencies In-house agencies of large companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate talent, persistence, assertiveness, and enthusiasm. • Obtain strong statistics background for market research positions. • Participate in sales and promotions for student organizations or private businesses. • Complete an internship in a market research firm or advertising agency.
Public Relations	Public relations firms Advertising agencies In-house public relations departments Trade associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain internship or other relevant work experience to break into field. • Be prepared to start at the bottom and work towards higher levels. • Become an effective team member by working on group projects for campus organizations. • Volunteer to write publications for nonprofit or student organizations.

*To learn about these areas and much more visit: whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major • © 2011 What Can I Do With This Major

Enrichment Opportunities

- Internships** Internships provide qualified English majors with experience on local publications as professional writers, researchers and editors. FMI: <https://usm.maine.edu/cecd>
- Study Abroad** For more information contact the USM Office of International Programs. usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad
- Clubs & Organizations** English Student Association, Gender Studies Student Organization, Student Marketing Association, [Free Press](#), [WPMG](#), Words and Images. For a complete list of student organizations: webapp.usm.maine.edu/pathways/list
- USM Corporate Partners** The USM Corporate Partners are over 350 business people, from nearly 100 companies. usm.maine.edu/corporatepartners

Helpful Career Links

- USMCareerConnections:**
USM's career network for job and internship searches. usm.maine.edu/community-engagement-career-development/usmcareerconnections
- O*NET OnLine:**
Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with O*NET. onetonline.org
- Occupational Outlook Handbook:**
Learn more about a career opportunity by researching it with OOH. bls.gov/oooh
- PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS To name a few...**
- [Magazine Publishers of America](#)
 - [Association of American Publishers](#)
 - [Society for Technical Communication](#)
 - [National Council of Teachers of English](#)
 - [American Copy Editors Society](#)
 - [National Newspaper Publishers Association](#)
 - [Modern Language Association](#)



Office of Community Engagement and Career Development • usm.maine.edu/cecd

(207) 228-8091
usmcareers@maine.edu

P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300
100 Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St., Portland Campus