



when you get here you understand

Career & Employment Services  
Counselling, Career & Learning Centre  
Room 1402  
403.314.2476

[employmentservices@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:employmentservices@rdc.ab.ca)

## What Can I Do with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English?

### About English

English is the study of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar. It focuses on how various types of media, including books, magazines, newspapers, films, and advertising interplay in the world.

As an English major, you will explore the imaginative and practical uses of English through courses in literature, writing, rhetoric, and language. You will strengthen your communication skills, writing techniques, and will learn how to gather, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information. You will study a variety of literature from other cultures and various time periods. An appreciation for various distinguished works of literature will be developed, including Shakespeare, aboriginal literature, popular genres, poetry, drama, and national literatures.

### Career/Job Opportunities

In a job market that is constantly changing, employers value English majors for their strong communication skills; English majors use the English language accurately and persuasively, in a speech and in writing. English majors are well suited for positions in government or law that depend on critical thinking, textual analysis, and advanced writing skills. In the business sector, English majors are sought out for their effective written communication skills and ability to critically analyze texts. English grads are able to quickly summarize lengthy reports, provide opinions of radically differing approaches to a business problem, and edit a critical marketing piece before it's sent to the printer. English majors find careers in publishing, business, industry, government, and teaching, among other industries.

Some of the jobs found below require additional experience and education/training such as a master's or a doctorate level degree.

This career/job listing is only a sample of the opportunities available; these are certainly not the only career/job options accessible with this degree. Some of the careers listed require further education.

For career descriptions, profiles and job outlooks, enter the four digit code listed below in the Alberta Learning Information Service Website ([www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca)) or the National Occupational Classification Website (<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>).

Actor/Actress [#5135]	Advertising Agent [#6411]	Author [#5121]
Poet [#5121]	Ad Writer [#5121]	Biographer [#5121]



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Copywriter [#5121]	Game/Web Critic [#5121]	Interactive Media Writer [#5121]
Literary Writer [#5121]	Multimedia Author [#5121]	On-line Reference Developer [#5121]
Playwright [#5121]	Screen writer [#5121]	Social Policy Researcher [#4164]
News Editor [#5122]	Caption Editor [#5122]	Copy Chief [#5122]
Financial Editor [#5122]	Local News Editor [#5122]	Newspaper Editor [#5122]
Sport Desk Editor [#5122]	Telecommunications Editor [#5122]	Communications Officer [#5124]
Researcher [#4164/4165]	Public Affairs Officer [#5124]	Sales Representative/Salesperson [#6421/6411]
Market Researcher [#4163]	Academic Advisor [#4143]	Alumni Relations Officer
Journal Editor [#5122]	Interpreter [#5125]	College Teacher [#4131]
Lawyer [#4112]	Librarian [#5111]	Press Agent [#5124]
Speech Writer [#5121]	Anchorwoman/women [#5123]	Foreign Affairs Reporter [#5123]
Movie/Literary Critic [#5123]	News Commentator – Broadcasting [#5123]	Program Researcher – Radio or Television [#5123]
Society Journalist [#5123]	Communications Consultant [#5124]	Human Resources Specialist [#1121]
Assistant Librarian [#5211]	Judge [#4211]	Legislative Aide [#1222]
Lobbyist [#4164]	Museum Educator [#5124]	Public Relations Consultant [#5124]
Commentator [#5123]	Documentation Technician [#5211]	Co-op Officer [#4143]



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College/University Admissions Officer [#1221]	Film Production Assistant [#5227]	Fundraiser [#5124]
Account Executive [#1122]	Marketing Writer [#5121]	Author (Fiction & Non-Fiction) [#5121]
Labor Relations Officer [#1121]	Labour Market Policy Officer [#4164]	Immigration Policy Analyst [#4164]
Border Services Officer [#1228]	Book Publicist [#5124]	

**Employers** (not a comprehensive list)

Advertising Agencies	Magazines/Newspapers	Libraries
Law Firms	Book Publishers	Theatres
Public Relations Firms	Medical Institutions	Educational Institutions
Engineering Firms	Government Agencies	Non Profit Organizations
Radio and TV Communications	Accounting Firms	Insurance Agencies
Hospitals	Financial Service Companies	

**Major Skills obtained from BA – English** (not a comprehensive list)

Ability to Analyze Written Material and Extract Significant Points	Proficient Editing Skills	Ability to Write Effectively
Demonstrated Skills in Literary Analysis and Critical Thinking and Writing	Ability to Apply Techniques of Literary Research	Superior Skills in Conceptual Analysis
Strong Evaluation Skills	Creative Problem-Solving Skills	Confident Public Speaking Skills – Good at Making Oral Presentations
Able to Compare Interpretations	Able to Present Alternative View Points	Able to Initiate, Plan, and Carry Out Complex Projects
Able to Reflect On and Discuss Ideas	Able to Confront a Mass of Information and Organize it Meaningfully	Demonstrate Superior Understanding of the Writing Process and Writing Techniques



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## Listing of Potential Employers

City of Calgary – [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca)  
City of Edmonton – [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca)  
City of Red Deer – [www.reddeer.ca](http://www.reddeer.ca)  
Corus Entertainment - [www.corusent.com](http://www.corusent.com)  
CTV Globe Media - [www.ctvglobemedia.com](http://www.ctvglobemedia.com)  
Deloitte and Touche – [www.careers.deloitte.com/gateway.aspx](http://www.careers.deloitte.com/gateway.aspx)  
Manulife Financial – [www.manulife.com/careers](http://www.manulife.com/careers)  
Meyers Norris Penny LLP – [www.mnp.ca](http://www.mnp.ca)  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP – [www.pwcrecruiting.com](http://www.pwcrecruiting.com)  
Provincial Government of Alberta – [www.jobs.alberta.ca](http://www.jobs.alberta.ca)  
Public Service Commission of Canada (Federal Government) - <http://jobs-emplois.gc.ca/>  
RBC - [www.rbc.com/careers/index.html](http://www.rbc.com/careers/index.html)  
Reader's Digest – [www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com)  
Red Deer College – [www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca)  
Rogers - [www.rogers.com/index.html](http://www.rogers.com/index.html)  
Sapphire Technologies - [www.sapphireca.com](http://www.sapphireca.com)  
Telus - <http://about.telus.com/careers/en/>

## General Job Search Websites

Albertajobs.com – [www.albertajobs.com](http://www.albertajobs.com)  
Eluta: The Search Engine for New Jobs in Canada – [www.eluta.ca](http://www.eluta.ca)  
Hireground Careers – [www.hgcareers.com](http://www.hgcareers.com)  
JournalismJobs.com - [www.journalismjobs.com](http://www.journalismjobs.com)  
Monster: Your calling is calling – [www.monster.ca](http://www.monster.ca)  
Red Deer Job Shop – [www.reddeerjobshop.ca](http://www.reddeerjobshop.ca)  
Service Canada: Job Bank - [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca)  
TalentEgg: hatching graduate careers – [www.talentegg.ca](http://www.talentegg.ca)  
Workopolis.com: Canada's Biggest Job Site - [www.workopolis.com](http://www.workopolis.com)  
Wowjobs: One Click All Jobs - [www.wowjobs.ca](http://www.wowjobs.ca)

## Professional Associations and Sites of Interest

Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English - [www.accute.ca](http://www.accute.ca)  
Association of Canadian Publishers - [www.publishers.ca](http://www.publishers.ca)  
Canadian Authors Association - [www.canauthors.org](http://www.canauthors.org)  
Canadian Magazine Publishers Association - [www.cmpa.ca](http://www.cmpa.ca)  
Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) - [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca)  
League of Canadian Poets - [www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca)  
Professional Writers Association of Canada – [www.pwac.ca](http://www.pwac.ca)  
Writer's Guild of Alberta – [www.writersguild.ab.ca](http://www.writersguild.ab.ca)  
Writers' Union of Canada - [www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca)

## RDC Department Information

Bachelor of Arts: English -  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_calendar/programs\\_and\\_courses/university\\_transfer\\_programs/bachelor\\_of\\_arts\\_in\\_english.html](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_calendar/programs_and_courses/university_transfer_programs/bachelor_of_arts_in_english.html)



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## For More Info

Please contact the Career & Employment Services Coordinator  
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## Information adapted from

<http://www.mcgill.ca/files/caps/english.pdf>  
<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/majors/english.htm>  
<http://www.uwec.edu/career/students/major/english.htm>  
<http://www.worldwidelearn.com/online-education-guide/arts-humanities/english-major.htm>  
<http://www2.yk.psu.edu/common/degrees/undergrad/bacc/english/engmajor.shtml>  
What You Can Do With an Arts Degree, written by Dave Studd and Philip Schofield