The subject of English involves great attention to detail, a creative imagination, a passion for reading and literature, and a love of the mechanics of language. English majors find effective ways to express their ideas, write with clarity and precision, and analyze the concepts within works of literature. The University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire offers an English major with an emphasis in linguistics, literature, creative writing, and scientific/technical writing. The department also offers a teaching emphasis as a comprehensive or standard major. Minors in literature, teaching early adolescence/adolescence, language studies, scientific and technical writing, and creative writing are also offered.

Typical interests and values of English majors:
- Reading and writing
- Grammar and language
- Communication
- Interpreting text
- Imagination
- Problem-solving

Knowledge and skills gained from studying English:

Knowledge:
An English major will have a broad base of knowledge gained through literature and incorporating perspectives from various cultures and time periods. An English degree will provide a strong understanding of how media-books, magazines, newspapers, films, and advertising-interplay in the world. English majors will also graduate with a sophisticated understanding of literary concepts such as theme, symbolism, and metaphor.

Skills:
- Strong understanding of grammar and mechanics of English
- Speaking and writing with clarity, precision, and flair
- Initiating, planning, and carrying out complex projects
- Problem-solving - ability to see many possible solutions and select the best one
- Reflect on and discuss ideas
- Ability to confront a mass of information and organize it meaningfully
- Skilled at editing for content and grammar
- Imagining alternative
- Extracting important information
- Facilitating group discussion
- Meaningfully organizing information
- Ability to see the “big picture”
- Persuading and expressing ideas

Related student and professional organizations:
Student:
- Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society
- None of the Above (NOTA)
- The Flip Side
- The Spectator
- Student Society of Technical Editors and Writers

Professional:
- Society for Technical Communication (STC)
- National Writers Association
- National Association of Desktop Publishers
- American Association for Applied Linguistics

Career fields related to English:
Potential Employers:
A graduate who can write clearly and effectively is desirable to any number of employers. Some opportunities that utilize skills in written communication include developing newsletters and public relations pieces for businesses, drafting speeches for politicians, and editing for newspapers or magazines. There are also opportunities for freelance writers and editors, which could mean working at home and undertaking a wide variety of projects. One of the fastest growing opportunities for those interested in writing is Web publication. Many companies are in the first stages of setting up Web sites and are looking for accomplished writers to help them get started.
Potential Job Titles:
- Editor
- Reporter
- Freelance Writer
- Literary Critic
- Author
- Educator
- Speechwriter
- Publisher
- Publications Researcher
- Staff Writer
- Correspondent
- Teacher
- Technical Writer
- Legislative Aide
- Lobbying Researcher
- Survey Assistant
- College Admissions Officer
- Judicial Clerk
- Public Relations Representative

Jobs You Might also Consider...
- Market Research Analyst
- Fund Raiser
- Librarian
- Underwriter
- Legal Assistant
- Caption Writer
- Advertising Copywriter
- Career Counselor
- Fund Raiser
- Columnist
- Human Resources Administrator
- Social and Community Service Manager
- Training and Development Manager

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire English graduates:
- College Professor, Henan College of Education, Zheng Zhou, China
- Editor, Mondovi Herald News, Mondovi, WI
- Tech Writer, Royal Credit Union, Eau Claire, WI
- Behavior Therapist, MN Early Autism Project, Maple Grove, MN
- Inter-Library Loan Librarian, UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI
- English Teacher, Chippewa Falls School District, Chippewa Falls, WI
- Reporter, Eau Claire Leader Telegram, Eau Claire, WI

Learn more about English:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s English Department, HHH 405, 836-2639

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW – Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
  - Journalism, Publishing & Writing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:

Yellow section
- Sigl 3 handouts:
  - English - Writer
  - Teacher, English - Editor
- Book sections:
  - Publishing & Writing
  - Communication and Entertainment
  - Non-Profit

Orange section
- “The Internship Series: The Media Internship Book”
- Teaching abroad opportunities

Blue Section
- Multiple resources to help create a portfolio to showcase your writing

Opportunities to enhance skills in English:

Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in English, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the English Department chair about enrolling in ENGL 498 to obtain academic credit for your internship.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in ENGL 395, 399, or 499

What you can do now:
- Working on the NOTA selection committee can give English majors experience in copy editing, page design, and layout of text. Submitting pieces to NOTA or participating in English Fest can give students the opportunity to present their work to a wide audience.
- Gain experience by entering essay contests.
- Job shadow a professional in your area of interest or conduct informational interviews.