

What do you do with a BA in English?

There are many diverse job options for those with a degree in English. Employers often list “clear written communication skills as one of the top desirable skills that they look for when hiring. Therefore, English majors can be found in pretty much any field where there is a need for presenting information through writing.

Many people think that all you can do with a major in English is to teach. While it’s true that you can become a teacher after earning an additional teaching credential, there are a number of other rewarding careers for graduates with a degree in English.

Companies like Microsoft, Amazon, and Starbucks are always on the look-out for graduates who can write technical instructions, proposals, and reports. In addition, companies look for those with technical editing skills to work as copywriters before anything is published in print or online.

Alternatively, there are opportunities in journalism (newspapers and magazines) or writing novels/short stories/poetry. Or, if you’re interested in reading the work of others and finding an audience for it, many English majors work in the field of publishing. There is so much you can do with a BA (Bachelor of Arts) in English!

Which Degree do I Begin with?

If you’re looking to transfer to a Baccalaureate university, you’ll be working on the **Associate in Arts and Sciences Direct Transfer Degree**. With careful planning, you will be able to enter the transfer university with Junior standing.

What Classes will I Need to Take Here?

Every university and major concentration will require slightly different pre-requisites. It is **highly recommended** that you speak with a representative at the target university in conjunction with an academic advisor here at BC to ensure that you are taking the proper courses. Double-checking requirements is as easy as going to the university department website. Below is a general guide to the courses **recommended** and the areas of study they fulfill on the DTA for students interested in a English major (this is not an official list):

Written Communication	Mathematics	Major Specific	Other	Recommended Courses
English 101† English 201,235, OR 271†	1 College-Level Math† (see notes below)	3-4 Writing (Prose and Poetry) and Literature (from different time periods/cultures) courses	Foreign Language† (see notes below)	Science recommendations: Botany, Environmental Science, Astronomy, Meteorology, Oceanography

†: Recommended during the first year of study.

Important notes about class selection above:

- **Math:** Do not delay taking your math coursework. For those who do not wish to continue with math after fulfilling the requirement, **Math 107** is a good option. Math 141, 130, or 138 are all fine options.
- **200-Level Written Communication:** All three options are fine for English majors and will allow you to explore your selected “track.” English 201 is recommended for those studying literature, English 271 is a good option for those studying creative writing, and English 235 is a good option for those studying Rhetoric/Technical Writing.
- **100 and 200-level Writing and Literature Courses:** While helpful for delving into the major, some institutions (including UW), limit these courses, including Creative Writing prerequisites, to 20-credits as part of the AAS-DTA.
- **Foreign Language:** In addition to the Foreign Language admissions and graduation requirements at transfer institutions, if students want to continue their studies post-B.A., most graduate programs require students to be able to obtain a “B” in a 300-level foreign language course or pass a proficiency exam. It is most helpful if the foreign language is related to the area of literature of interest.

Check your degree progress!
Log into degree audit at:
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/degreeaudit/>

Major Focus Tracks at the University Level

English Literature classes teach you how to analyze texts (prose, poetry, or other) in order to learn more about a certain time period or cultural theme. Those who concentrate in English literature will gain an appreciation for writing, careful analysis, and the historical aspects of the written (and sometimes unwritten) word.

Writing/Rhetoric Programs teach you how to analyze the writing of others and to communicate clearly and persuasively while writing for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students who want to write for “real world” purposes (manuals, guides, brochures, magazines, etc.) should explore Rhetoric classes.

Creative Writing classes teach you about the elements of and how to write fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Students who want to write and publish books, short stories, and poetry will benefit from these classes.

Course Planning Notes

Use the space below to write down a course sequence for this school year. Remember to maintain balance each quarter (i.e. try not to take all sciences or all writing-based classes in a single quarter). Also, keep in mind that 12 credit hours or more is considered full time; make sure to balance class load with your personal and/or work life. This is not an official educational plan— you should see an academic advisor if you have questions about course selection.

SUMMER		FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS	

Beyond BC with a English Degree!

Here are the prerequisites for admission at selected Washington State universities:

University of Washington-Seattle

English Language and Literature: English 301/297 (this must be taken at UW)

Creative Writing: English 247,248, 249 (Writing Poetry)
English 237, 238, 239 (Writing Fiction)

*note: UW only requires two courses in creative writing if you take the courses at UW. However, taking English 237 and 247 is still recommended in order to help strengthen your writing portfolio.

University of Washington- Tacoma

Creative Writing: English 201

Western Washington University

English Literature or Creative Writing: English 202 (must be taken at WWU)

Eastern Washington University

English Language and Literature, Creative Writing, and Technical Communication:

English 201, English 112, English 113

Central Washington University:

General English: English 302,, 303 (must be taken at CWU)

No Specific Prerequisites::

Seattle Pacific University

Seattle University

Washington State University

Here's the Scoop! Considerations for this Major:

- Programs will differ from university to university
- Know the school's admission requirements, expectations, deadlines, and areas of specialization.
- Attend the information sessions offered by the universities.
- Most universities have admission and exit foreign language policies; know what they are so you don't miss the graduation requirements.
- Apply to more than one university and have more than one back-up plan.
- Jibsheet: Write for the student newspaper. You may also receive credit for your work.
- Literary Magazine (The Belletrist): Submitting stories or poems to the literary magazine is an easy way to get your work out there and published
- Writing Lab Tutoring: work as a tutor in the writing lab if you would like to assist other with their writing or would like to learn how to better explain the writing process and mechanics to others.
- BC English is a Field of Study. This is what our English department has to say about the value of a degree in English:
<http://bellevuecollege.edu/english/englishmajors.html>

Where Do I Go for More Information?

Who To Contact for more Information:

Bellevue College has a variety of friendly faces and resources to help you plan and register for classes. We have designed specific pathways for help depending on where you are in your journey through college:

Prospective Students: Attend an Information Session

First Time to College Students: New Student Advising (we call this One Stop) with a student ambassador and faculty advisor

Returning to College/Transfer-In/Current Students: Meet with an Academic Advisor

To find out more about any one of the above steps, please visit:

<http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/advising/meet-with-advisor/>

English is part of the Arts and Humanities division. In order to make an appointment with an academic or faculty advisor, call **425-564-2341** or **425-564-2212**

Need more career information?

Schedule an appointment with a Career Services Specialist by calling **425-564-2279**.

This is an unofficial guide only, designed to prepare students for entry into Washington State English programs. It is the student's responsibility to research and communicate with all community college and university programs to which he/she intends to apply to establish prerequisites and admission requirements, as they vary and are subject to change without notice .

BC reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran. Please visit <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal.asp>.

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