

# ENGLISH

- \*WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN ENGLISH?
- \*WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?
- \*WHERE CAN I FIND CAREER INFORMATION?

**• CAREER PLANNING • SUNY POTSDAM • 206 SISSON**  
**WEB SITE: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career)      TELEPHONE: 315-267-2344**

## ***WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ENGLISH?***

1. The English Major is valuable to most career fields and good preparation for many graduate and professional programs.
2. SUNY Potsdam offers four majors within the English Department: Literature, Writing, Literature/Writing, and Creative Writing.
3. A Major in Literature emphasizes literature, literary analysis and critical writing. Graduates have pursued careers in publishing, business, or government.
4. A Major in Writing deepens capacity for thought and prepares students to reach audiences through artful and purposeful use of the written word.
5. A Major in Literature/Writing is required of all students seeking secondary education certification. A Literature/Writing Major focuses on literature, rhetoric, creativity, and professional practice while introducing students to common forms in a variety of contexts.
6. A Major in Creative Writing hones students' abilities to write and think imaginatively and critically. Students learn strategies for crafting original expression.

## ***EXAMPLES OF THE FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ENGLISH MAJORS:***

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Publishers            | 8. Political or Consumer Groups |
| 2. Law                   | 9. Hospitality Industries       |
| 3. Radio and TV Stations | 10. Academia                    |
| 4. Corporations          | 11. Medicine                    |
| 5. Translator Services   | 12. Advertising                 |
| 6. Government Agencies   | 13. Public Relations            |
| 7. Athletics             |                                 |

## ***SOME EMPLOYERS AND JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM ENGLISH MAJORS:***

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|--|---|
| * PA Dept. of Labor<br>Director of Grants Admin. & Research      | * Biologic Inc.<br>Director of Business Development             |
| * Federal Compensation Publications<br>Founder/Creative Director | * Park Newspaper Inc.<br>Reporter                               |
| * Blue Cross Blue Shield<br>Communications Administrator         | * US Customs and Border Protection<br>ABI Client Representative |
| * Port Washington Public Library<br>Librarian                    | * Ecology and Environment Inc.<br>Principal Writer              |
| * Watertown City School District<br>Teacher                      | * St. Lawrence Family Court<br>Attorney                         |
| * Planned Parenthood<br>Senior Site Coordinator                  | * Reader's Digest<br>Editor                                     |
| * Transamerica Tax Service<br>Manager, Software Development      | * HCPro<br>Marketing Coordinator                                |

***SAMPLE OF FAMOUS ENGLISH MAJORS:***

- \* Stephanie Blyth: Opera Star, SUNY Potsdam Alumnus
- \* T. Coraghessan Boyle: Writer, SUNY Potsdam Alumnus
- \* Former Governor of New York: Mario Cuomo
- \* Oscar-Winning Directors: James Cameron, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese
- \* Broadcast Journalists: Barbara Walters, Diane Sawyer
- \* Actors: Jodi Foster, Harrison Ford, Vin Diesel, Alan Alda, Matt Damon
- \* Novelist: Steven King
- \* Television Host and Comedian: Conan O'Brien, Mary Hart
- \* Nobel Laureate in Medicine: Harold Varmus
- \* Humorists: Dave Barry and Chevy Chase
- \* Musicians: Sting, Paul Simon, Randy Owen
- \* CEO's: Michael Eisner (Disney), Kathryn Fuller (World Wildlife Fund)

***SAMPLE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES:***

- \* Potsdam College Public Affairs
  - Learn to write news releases and perhaps publish a featured article in the alumni magazine.
- \* Seymore Agency
  - Assist a literary agent in Canton, and learn about the publishing business.
- \* BlueLine Literary Journal
  - Assist the editor with marketing administrative and educational projects.
- \* North Country Schools Peace Poetry Contest
  - Work on a team organizing over 7000 submissions, planning a major reading event, and published a calendar of winners' work. Similar opportunities exist with the World in Potsdam Festival Writing Contest.
- \* Online Music Reviewer for Adequacy.net
  - Write two reviews per week on indie releases in .mp3 format. Reviews "expand on a single song, and write about the song, the style, and the band itself."

***SAMPLE OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY SUNY POTSDAM ENGLISH ALUMNI:***

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| * University of Texas @ Austin    | * Columbia University                     |
| * SUNY Potsdam                    | * University of Maine                     |
| * University of Albany Law School | * Syracuse University                     |
| * RPI                             | * Bard College                            |
| * SUNY New Paltz                  | * St. Michael's College                   |
| * SUNY Oswego                     | * Ohio State                              |
| * University of Albany            | * University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign |
| * University of Buffalo           | * Indiana University                      |
| * College of St. Rose             | * RIT                                     |



### ***HOW TO ENHANCE EMPLOYABILITY:***

1. Get involved in the career development process early-freshman year.
2. Select minors or elective courses that will demonstrate interest or help develop career objectives.
3. Get career related experience: internships, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career-related association or organization.
4. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume and cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
5. Skills to develop: reading astutely; critical thinking; writing; listening; researching; information management; speaking; assimilating, analyzing and synthesizing large amounts of information; translating large concepts into succinct language; working to meet deadlines; argumentative and persuasive writing; proper grammar and usage; editing; adapting writing style to an audience; and managing complex projects.

### ***PREPARING FOR THE JOB MARKET:***

- \* Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
- \* Learn job search strategies
- \* Borrow resources from the SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Library
- \* Develop networking cards
- \* Network w/employers at Career/Job Fairs
- \* Prepare for an interview
- \* Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
- \* Visit SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Web Site at: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career)
- \* Seek advice from faculty

### ***WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:***

#### **1. ENGLISH DEPT., SUNY Potsdam, 120 Morey Hall**

- \* Talk with Faculty
- \* Talk with Students
- \* Talk with Alumni

#### **2. CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall**

- \* Individual Career Assistance
- \* Workshops/Seminars
- \* Employer Literature
- \* Career Assessment Programs
- \* Career and Job Fairs
- \* Networking Assistance
- \* Alumni Mentor
- \* Job Vacancies
- \* Summer Jobs
- \* Reference file
- \* Career Planning Web Site
- \* Career Library
- \* A Major Affair
- \* Free Handouts Available

### ***RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS AND CAREER INFORMATION:***

#### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:**

- \* Job Hunter's Sourcebook (R26D)
- \* The Career Guide Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
- \* Writers Market (R50A)
- \* Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
- \* Aside from Teaching English, What in the World Can I Do? (C13A)
- \* Great Jobs for English Majors (C13B)
- \* English – The Professional Major (C13C)
- \* Reading for a Living (C13E)
- \* Career Opportunities in Library and Information Science (C13F)
- \* Working Press of the Nation (R9A, R9B, R9C)
- \* Career Planning Job Search Internet Links: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/jobsearch/index.cfm](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/jobsearch/index.cfm)
- \* Additional materials found by using Career Planning Bibliography



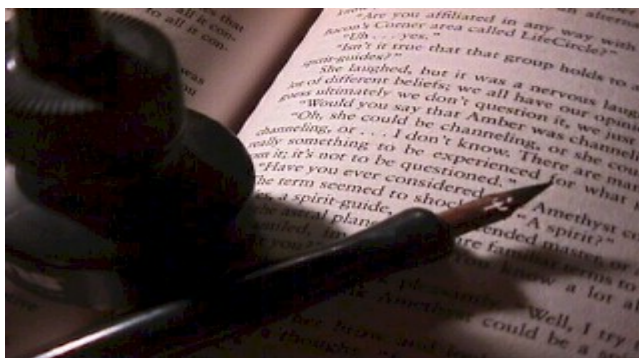
## **WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?**

### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:**

- \* On-Campus Graduate School Fair
- \* Graduate School handout
- \* GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
- \* Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
- \* Financial aid information about graduate school
- \* Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F, G, H, I, J, K)
- \* Web Site: [www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate](http://www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate)

### **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* American Society of Journalists/Authors<br/>1501 Broadway, Suite. 302<br/>New York, NY 10036<br/>(212) 997-0947<br/><a href="http://www.asja.org">www.asja.org</a></li><br/><li>* Public Relations Society of America<br/>Career Information<br/>33 Maiden Lane, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor<br/>New York, NY 10038-5150<br/>(212) 460-1484<br/><a href="http://www.prsa.org">www.prsa.org</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* The Society of Professional Journalists<br/>3909 N. Meridian Street<br/>Indianapolis, IN 46208<br/>(317) 927-8000<br/><a href="http://www.spj.org">www.spj.org</a></li><br/><li>* Linguistic Society of America<br/>1325 18 Street<br/>N.W., Suite 211<br/>Washington, D.C. 20036<br/>(202) 835-1714<br/><a href="http://www.lsadc.org">www.lsadc.org</a></li></ul> |
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Designed and edited by Career Planning staff in collaboration with  
SUNY Potsdam English Department