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

SOME EMPLOYERS AND JOB TITLES OF SUNY POTSDAM ENGLISH MAJORS:
* PA Dept. of Labor
  Director of Grants Admin. & Research
* Federal Compensation Publications
  Founder/Creative Director
* Blue Cross Blue Shield
  Communications Administrator
* Port Washington Public Library
  Librarian
* Watertown City School District
  Teacher
* Planned Parenthood
  Senior Site Coordinator
* Transamerica Tax Service
  Manager, Software Development
* Biologic Inc.
  Director of Business Development
* Park Newspaper Inc.
  Reporter
* US Customs and Border Protection
  ABI Client Representative
* Ecology and Environment Inc.
  Principal Writer
* St. Lawrence Family Court
  Attorney
* Reader’s Digest
  Editor
* HCPro
  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 POTSDM ENGLISH ALUMNI:
* University of Texas @ Austin
* SUNY Potsdam
* University of Albany Law School
* RPI
* SUNY New Paltz
* SUNY Oswego
* University of Albany
* University of Buffalo
* College of St. Rose
* Columbia University
* University of Maine
* Syracuse University
* Bard College
* St. Michael’s College
* Ohio State
* University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
* Indiana University
* 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
- 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
- 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

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:
* American Society of Journalists/Authors
  1501 Broadway, Suite 302
  New York, NY 10036
  (212) 997-0947
  www.asja.org

* The Society of Professional Journalists
  3909 N. Meridian Street
  Indianapolis, IN 46208
  (317) 927-8000
  www.spj.org

* Public Relations Society of America
  Career Information
  33 Maiden Lane, 11th Floor
  New York, NY 10038-5150
  (212) 460-1484
  www.prsa.org

* Linguistic Society of America
  1325 18 Street
  N.W., Suite 211
  Washington, D.C. 20036
  (202) 835-1714
  www.lsadc.org

Designed and edited by Career Planning staff in collaboration with SUNY Potsdam English Department