

ENGLISH



Everyone wants to know what you can do with a bachelor's degree in English

The short answer is almost anything, and that's an advantage in the workforce. A liberal arts degree gives you a broad set of skills that can be applied in any field. It gives you more choices now and in the long run. That's why graduates find employment in a variety of industries. Employers value these skills.

Skills that go beyond a job title

From a humanities degree

- Write clear and correct prose
- Prepare and present research findings
- Think critically and interpret information
- Analyze information and concepts
- Understand cultural history and trends
- Research and comprehend dense material
- Solve complex problems
- Computer training and data processing
- Accomplish goals through teamwork
- Maturity formed by completing a degree

From an English major

- Creative and non-fiction writing
- Using language to influence and persuade
- Advance knowledge of grammar
- Edit written material
- Read complex prose
- Summarize and clarify difficult ideas
- Research techniques for organizing texts

Benefits of a bachelor's degree on the job market

Versatility

Liberal arts programs train students in critical thinking, problem solving, rhetoric, the ability to work in teams, leadership, and conflict resolution. Arts and science graduates develop the capacity to learn new skills again and again, and the adaptability to apply what they learn critically and creatively—highly valuable skills in advanced careers!

Long-term Dividends

Liberal arts degrees are long-term investments that train graduates with habits of mind that become more valuable as they progress through their careers. As graduates combine their degree with accumulated work experience, they may transition into positions with increased responsibilities and higher salaries.

Employment & Income

Even in Alberta where oil and gas has elevated the pay of trades workers, university graduates typically earn more and are employed more often than those with just high school or college diplomas.

<u>Alberta Residents</u>	<u>Unemployment (2012)*</u>	<u>After-Tax Income (2006)[†]</u>
High School	4.3%	\$21,694
College Diploma	3.1%	\$32,553
Bachelor's Degree	3.0%	\$37,890

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Further Education

But how do you start a new career? Few entry-level jobs in any field necessitate four years of specialized undergraduate study. Don't be discouraged if the first job you get after graduating isn't directly in your chosen career. Getting into that career might mean earning a professional designation or master's degree, or gaining employment experience in an entry-level position, or some technical training in a diploma program, or even teaching yourself new skills. Constant retraining is a reality for almost all professions within the current economy. That's where liberal arts graduates have an edge. They are practiced in the mental flexibility and curiosity required to pick up new skills quickly.

Potential Careers for an English Major

Writing and Publishing

- Author (Creative, Non-Fiction)
- Book Critic
- Book Editor
- Journalist
- Manuscript Reader
- Narrator
- Playwright
- Poet
- Proofreader
- Publisher
- Publishing Assistant
- Scriptwriter
- Speech Writer

Media/Arts

- Actor, Humourist/Comedian
- Critic (Film, Theatre, Music, Dance, Art, Fashion, Food)
- Editor (Magazines, Newspapers, Film, Video)
- Film Researcher
- Foreign Correspondent
- Producer (Film, Radio, Television)
- Public Speaker
- Radio and Television Reporter
- Web Designer
- Webmaster

Education

- Curriculum Designer
- English as a Second Language Teacher
- Education Upgrading Teacher
- Teacher (Reading Specialist)
- Teacher (Pre-school, Elementary, Secondary, Adult)
- University or College Professor

Business

- Account Executive
- Administrative Assistant
- Advertising Account Executive
- Call Centre Supervisor
- Communications Consultant
- Communications Officer
- Consumer Relations Researcher
- Customer Service Representative
- Event Planner
- Executive Assistant
- Lawyer
- Loan Officer
- Management Trainee
- Market Researcher
- Marketing Specialist
- Media Buyer
- Real Estate Agent
- Recruiter
- Sales Accounts Executive

Non Profit and Government

- Assistant to an MLA or MP
- Coordinator for Human Services Agencies
- Fundraiser
- Human Resources Manager
- Media Consultant
- Museum Interpreter
- Political Campaign Worker
- Politician
- Public Relations Representative
- Religious/Pastoral Leader
- Researcher for Government Ministries
- Volunteer Manager

careerportal.concordia.ab.ca – find job postings and additional employment resources

Other Online Resources: alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo | jobfutures.ca | uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html | umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/resources/to_do.html

* Source: 2012 Employment and Income ([CANSIM Table 282-0003](#))

† Source: Statistics Canada - 2006 Census ([Catalogue Number 97-563-XCB2006011](#))