

Major in English

The desire to be understood is universal, and communication is most effective when speech and writing are clear and nuanced. An English degree program makes you a stronger communicator as it also expands your appreciation of literature. The major equips you with skills in analysis and close reading. You learn to think critically and independently, and conduct and integrate research into your writing. And, yes, you'll be prepared for many careers if you major in English. You come away with soft skills that graduate schools and employers are looking for. Your English degree serves as the basis for careers in various fields – from law to public administration.

At PC, the English department offers a variety of discussion-based courses that encourage you to participate and express your ideas. Smaller class sizes mean you'll feel a sense of community among your classmates and receive individual attention from professors. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study When You Major in English

As an English major, you develop a strong literary foundation as well as the ability to communicate persuasively through writing.

The degree coursework totals 33 hours, with three additional hours required for those seeking honors in English. During your first two years you'll take a Foundations course such as Intro to Literary Theory and Criticism. You'll choose three survey courses in British, American or world literature. Your final years include three pre-1900 Literature courses – such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Austenmania. You'll also take one post-1900 literature course, like Women's Literature or Holocaust Literature. Two elective choices allow you to select courses in film – like World Cinema and Silent Film – or take creative writing workshops. As a senior, you'll demonstrate your skills in research, writing and presentation through a capstone project. If eligible, you can earn marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma by conducting an honors project.

The English department also offers concentrations in creative writing, communication studies and English education.

Careers for English Majors

If you've heard that humanities degrees are impractical and not valued in the job market, you can put those rumors to rest. Your English degree, with its emphasis on analysis and written communication, prepares you for employment in a variety of sectors. While English majors make great writers and professors, many also follow career paths into advertising, business and law.

Look no further than PayScale's [College Salary Report](#) to see that there are careers for English majors. A bachelor's degree in English can earn you a mid-career salary of \$69,000 or more. Many English majors find high-paying positions with titles like content marketing manager and communications director.

Graduates from PC's English department have pursued advanced degrees in speech pathology, mass communication and physical therapy. They teach English in US schools, and internationally in places like Thailand and Hong Kong. Alumni have gone on to careers as grant writers, market research analysts and media planners. A liberal arts education from PC equips you with problem-solving, communication and other soft skills employers look for.

If you'd like even more ideas about what to do after you earn your English degree, here's even more examples of what recent English majors have done.

The Business World

Advertising (Copywriter, Executive)

Corporate Communications

Customer Service

Fashion Merchandising

Human Resources

Management

Marketing

Public Relations

Software Design and Testing

Technical Writing (Editor, User Documentation Writer)

Television and Film (Agent, Director or Producer, Publicist, Screenwriter)

Technical Consultation (Training Specialist)

Translation

Web Design and Management

Education

Education Administration/Resource (Curriculum Planning, Educational Program Specialist, Educational Research, Reading Specialist, Tutor)

Library Science

Museum Curatorship

Teaching

Professional Fields

Law (Attorney, Paralegal, Judge, Judicial Clerk)

Medicine (Biomedical Researcher, Dentist, Doctor, Health-Care Consultant)

Ministry

Public Service

Environmental researcher

Fundraiser (For Charities, Education, Political Candidates, Social Causes)

Government (Congressional Researcher, Lobbyist, Foreign Service Officer)

Public Administration (City Manager, Urban Planner)

Social Work

Writing and Editing

Creative Writing (Poet, Playwright, Novelist)

Documentation Specialist

Print Journalism (Columnist, Editor, Reporter)

Radio and Television Journalism (Commercial Writer, Continuity Writer, Editor, Newscaster, Reporter)

Publishing (Editor, Literary Agent, Publicist, Publisher)

Publications Research

Technical Writing (For Grants, Law or Medical Journals, Public Relations, Speeches)

English majors from PC have also gone on to earn advanced degrees in a number of fields:

Graduate Schools

English or Education

Master of Arts or Fine Arts

Doctorate of Philosophy

Professional Schools

Professional schools will require some appropriate preparation, but they love English majors:

Business School

Divinity School

Law School

Medical School

Student Experiences

As an English major, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn and grow outside the classroom.

1. **Study abroad.** PC's English department organizes "Maymester" trips to a variety of international locations such as Berlin, China, England, Ireland and Prague. Students recently spent their spring break studying literature and creative writing in Paris.
2. **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
3. **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
4. **Internships.** You can intern on or off campus to get experience that will look great on your resume.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other extracurricular activities are available to you as a student in the English department.

1. **Publications.** Students may write or edit for the *Blue Stocking* campus newspaper and *Figs & Thistles*, the literary-arts journal.
2. **Speaker Series.** The English department invites published writers onto campus to speak with students, sit in on classes and give public readings. And former students who continue to write may present works in the Alumni Reading Series.
3. **Writing Center.** You can work on campus as a tutor and help other students strengthen their writing skills.
4. **Film.** The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers visits campus each year. Students have the opportunity to watch films and meet the filmmakers.

Fast Facts

1. PC has had twice as many South Carolina Professors of the Year as any other college or university in the state. Two of the PC professors who received the award include English professors.
2. PC's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society connects you with fellow English enthusiasts through academic and social events.
3. Every year PC recognizes a student with the Creative Writing Award, which includes a monetary prize.
4. Julia Koets '05 is an award-winning author and poet, and holds both an MFA and a PhD in Creative Writing.

Meta Page Description

Yes, there are careers for English majors. An English degree from Presbyterian College prepares you for careers in law, public administration, and more.