

Hunter College
Department of English

695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065



Why Become an English Major?

To acquire skills that never lose value.



An English major's skills will never go out of style. The basic components of the English major – reading, writing, analysis, sharing ideas in groups – are essential for success in both work and life. Businesses and corporations prefer to hire English and Humanities majors because they can read and write well, and can think critically and “outside the box.” In fact, a recent study found that 97% of business executives surveyed rate writing skills as very important.

To nurture a lifelong pleasure in reading and in human nature.

Reading literature requires us to look at the world from perspectives different from our own. It cultivates imagination, empathy, critical analysis, and appreciation for language. In a globalizing world, literature gives us access to other cultures and ways of being, even as it allows us to take a quiet moment away from the world.

What can I do with a degree in English?

More than you'd imagine. Many companies recognize that English majors bring with them intellectual curiosity, innovative problem-solving, and an ability to focus on both

details and the big picture. The title of Tony Goldsby-Smith's post on *The Harvard Business Review* says it all: [“Want Innovative Thinking? Hire from the Humanities.”](#)

Why English majors are the “Hot New Hires.”

Bruna Martinuzzi, President, Clarion Enterprises Ltd., says that she prefers to hire English majors because of their communications, writing, research, and critical thinking skills. In [this](#) article, she also highlights the fact that English majors are generally very empathetic and can see a variety of different points a view: a skill you learn from literary study.

Here are some careers that you can pursue with a degree in English:

- Publishing (editing/proofreading/acquisitions/literary agent)
 - Writer
 - Teacher
 - Philanthropist
- Lawyer (most law schools no longer require a degree in political science before entry into law school)
 - Information/Research/Librarian
 - Public Service/Politics
 - Translator
 - Public Relations
 - Speech Writer
 - Journalist
 - Technical Writer
 - Grant Writer
 - Media/Website Development
 - Advertising/Marketing



Why study English at Hunter College?

Hunter's English department has some of the most distinguished faculty in their fields, and our small classes mean that students get to interact closely with their instructors. The English department is interdisciplinary in its offerings, with a diverse faculty whose areas of research and approaches to teaching offer Hunter students a wide spectrum of historical, post-theoretical, textual, and socio-cultural approaches to literary study, rhetoric and composition, linguistics and language, and creative writing. Explore the rest of the English department website for more details.

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