ENGLISH (Graduate/Professional) – WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

STUDENTS/ALUMNI

Description on Major
MA English – offers a variety of experiences and opportunities provided to the students. Courses include literature, creative writing, technical and professional communication, rhetoric and composition, multicultural and transnational literatures, linguistics, theory and criticism, folklore, children's literature, teaching English to speakers of other languages, and film studies.

PhD Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication - students combine theory and practice in the study of rhetoric, writing, and professional communication. Focusing on public and community rhetorics across genres and media, we provide future scholar-teachers with diverse, well-supported research and pedagogical experiences and foster professional development within intellectual and professional communities.

What is learned in the classroom?
MA English - research methods; English Studies, Literature, Linguistics, TESOL, Technical and Professional Communication (TPC), Rhetoric and Composition, Creative Writing, and Multicultural and Transnational Literatures (MTL).

PhD Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication - research and pedagogical experiences

Specific Knowledge Skills
- Awareness of the appropriate use and understanding of language to communicate ideas/information
- The ability to ensure grammatical accuracy, conciseness and clarity of written information
- Skills in analyzing, interpreting, reorganizing and rephrasing written materials and information
- An awareness of how to use language/literature to influence and communicate ideas effectively
- Knowledge of how language/literature shapes and reflects different cultures, societies and time periods
- An awareness of and the ability to articulate and communicate the major themes of human experience
- The ability to comprehend information in the context of presentation, audience, time, place and purpose
- Knowledge of a range of genres, authors and periods of literature and history
- An understanding of social, cultural, political and historical perspectives of communication/literature
- The ability to determine/uncover and interpret meaning in language and literature
- The ability to perceive subtle concepts and ideas; appreciation of word/phrase connotations

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What is learned through the classroom?
- Influencing and persuading
- Presenting alternative view points
- Clarifying ideas
- Making oral presentations
- Problem solving
- Developing hypotheses
- Comparing interpretations
- Summarizing ideas
- Thinking independently
- Editing skills
- Creative writing
- Oral and written communication skills

Valuable Transferable Skills
Information-gathering and Communication Skills
- The skills required to identify and access a wide range of relevant information and resources
- The ability to compile and organize facts and information and to comprehend and apply new and/or unfamiliar information to different situations and settings
- Skills in preparing interesting, creative and informative presentations which target diverse audiences
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- The ability to develop attractive/effective reports, presentations and materials using current technology

Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills
- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situations
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals

Teamwork and Management Skills
- Skills enabling you to work effectively as part of a team by identifying your role and contributing, through leading, teaching, motivating and/or encouraging others, to the success of the team
- An understanding of how to successfully identify, plan and contribute to the goals of a project
- The ability to oversee, supervise and/or contribute to a project from beginning to end including determining outcomes, planning details, making decisions, assigning roles and completing task

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ECU Alumni
- Christine Cranford
- Mary-Lynn Chambers
- Frank Hurley
- Jeanette W. Morris
- Melissa Place Hisle
- Amber Rach
- Trisha Capansky
- Pamela Hopkins
- Alexis Poe Davis
- Carolyn K. Dunn

Employers

Attributes employers seek on a candidate’s resume - NACE’s Job Outlook 2015
1. Leadership
2. Ability to work in a team
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Problem-solving skills
5. Strong work ethic
6. Analytical/quantitative skills
7. Technical Skills
8. Communication skills (verbal)
9. Initiative
10. Computer skills

Employers rate the importance of candidate skills/qualities - NACE’s Job Outlook 2015
1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

MORE RESOURCES

Other Career Centers:
- Florida State University
  - Finding and Using Graduate Student Resources
    [http://career.fsu.edu/IMAGES/PDFS/Guides/FindingAndUsingGraduateStudentResources.pdf](http://career.fsu.edu/IMAGES/PDFS/Guides/FindingAndUsingGraduateStudentResources.pdf)

Other Resources:
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- University Jobs - http://www.universityjobs.com/
- The Versatile PhD - http://versatilephd.com/
- Career Change for Academics - http://careerrchangeforacademics.com/
- National Postdoctoral Association - http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/
- Postdoc Jobs - http://www.postdocjobs.com/
- PhDs.org - http://www.phds.org/
- GradShare - http://www.gradshare.com
- International Association for Business Communicators Jobs - http://jobs.iabc.com/c/search_results.cfm?site_id=65
- Public Relations Student Society of America Jobs - http://www.prsa.org/jobcenter/
- Department of English Professional Activities/Journals - http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/engl/phd/ProfActivities.cfm
- The Write Jobs - http://www.writejobs.com/
- Vitae - https://chroniclevitae.com/job_search/new
- NationJob - http://www.nationjob.com/media
- Journalism NOW - http://www.journalismnow.com/
- Investigative Reporters & Editors - http://www.ire.org/
- City and Regional Magazine Publishers - http://www.citymag.org/
- Educational Paperback Association - http://www.edupaperback.org/
- Media Week - http://www.adweek.com/
- Authorlink - http://authorlink.com/
- O*NET - http://www.onetonline.org/

Articles/Publications:
Modern Language Association Career Advice - http://www.mla.org/jil_jobseekers

NOTE

*It is important to understand that employers hire people, not degrees.* The skills and knowledge you develop as a result of your education, as well as in your work and community activities, have the greatest impact on hiring decisions. (Wilfrid Laurier University - A Career Overview)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
East Carolina University Career Services - http://www.ecu.edu/career/