

English

Do you get excited by reading, writing, and debating ideas? A major in English language and literature offers a general humanistic education, as well as skills in analysis and communication essential in most careers today. A background in literature and language teaches you to write effectively and expressively, to think critically, to weigh values, and to communicate ideas.

Like any liberal arts major, a degree in English prepares you for a vast array of careers, including positions in business, industry, human resources, and law, as well as those traditionally associated with the major, such as editing, advertising, writing and teaching. The variety of talents among the English faculty and the various programs within the department make it possible for you to choose a program which will best meet your interests.

Skills and Competencies

The ability to communicate clearly and effectively is an asset that can help you in every area of your life, and a degree in English will provide you with the skills and competencies you will need in order to do that. Until recently, an English degree was believed to be best suited for those who aspired to teach or write. Today, however, employers recognized that communication skills are vital to many occupations, and the more skills you have in English and the language arts, the more valuable you will be in the workforce. An English major, therefore, will strengthen not only your reading and writing skills, but also your ability to think critically, to analyze, to interpret, to weigh values, and to argue logically, as well as a host of other skills. NMU English graduates find themselves employing these types of skills everyday...in the workplace and their private lives.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Core

Pre-1800 Literature Course (4 cr.)
EN247 Intro to Literary Studies (4 cr.)
EN 283 Survey of British Literature I (4 cr.)
EN 285 Survey of American Literature (4 cr.)
EN 366 Applied Literary Theory (4 cr.)
EN 493 English Capstone Seminar (4 cr.)
Choose One English elective- Refer to the bulletin for the list

Choose a Concentration: Literature or Writing

Concentration: Literature
Upper-Level Literature Courses (300+) (8 cr.)
Literature elective (4 cr.)
English Electives (8 cr.)
Choose 1:
EN 412 Chaucer (4 cr.)
EN 420 Shakespeare (4 cr.)
EN 422 Milton (4 cr.)
EN 430 Major Authors (4 cr.)

Concentration: Writing
Upper-Level Writing Courses (300+) (8 cr.)
Upper-Level Writing Course (400+) (4 cr.)
Upper-Level Literature Courses (300+) (4 cr.)
English Electives (4 cr.)

Language Requirement (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

You can gain excellent experience in government fields by finding internships related to your interests. Minor programs in writing, journalism, or broadcasting may open additional doors in Communications/Public Relations areas. Previous experience can increase your desirability for potential employers. If you intend to go to graduate school, remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you have applied. Additional foreign language competency, sometimes in two languages, is required in many graduate programs.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicant's work experience and initiative, and usually range from \$30,000 to \$55,000, but increase with completion of additional degrees. Different careers make varied amounts of money. Writing and related fields are expected to grow at an average rate, expecting to jump by 10%.

Potential Careers

NMU's English Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Acquisitions Editor
- Advertising/Marketing
- Broadcasting
- Business
- Consumer Public Relations
- Copy Editor
- Copy Writer
- Data Processing
- Diplomat
- Editor
- Event Planner
- Foreign Service Officer
- Free-lance Writer
- Grant Writer
- Information Specialist
- International Education
- Management Trainee
- Museum Curator
- Personnel Relations
- Project Editor
- Public Opinion Analyst
- Public Relations Coordinator
- Publicity and Promotion
- Reporter
- Research Analyst
- Sales
- Sales/Marketing Representative
- Script Writer
- Technical Writer
- Translator
- University/College Relations

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

English Department
3200 Jamrich Hall
906-227-2711
www.nmu.edu/english

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Passages North
myweb.nmu.edu/~passages

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.mla.org -Modern Language Association



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

English

