



THE PATHWAY FROM EDUCATION TO VOCATION

Becoming a Difference Maker in
ENGLISH

Why Study **English** at Azusa Pacific University?

The skills that English majors learn—how to think, read, write, listen, and speak effectively—enable graduates to live successfully and contribute to society in all personal and professional endeavors. Those are the same skills that many employers, including those in high-tech firms, are looking for. In fact, there is “a growing desire among employers for hires with strong communication skills,” which has caused “employment and starting salaries [to] rise sharply for humanities grads.”* In addition, English majors often outperform the average scores on the GRE, GMAT, and LSAT, making the degree a preferred option for students seeking graduate and professional studies. Taking all of this into account, many savvy students select English as their primary or second major to broaden their post-graduation options.

APU’s Department of English introduces students to significant works of the literary imagination, guides their development in language and composition, and encourages them to read attentively, reflect deeply, write cogently, and express themselves creatively, all to glorify God and serve others. English faculty are well published in both critical and creative works across a variety of genres, and welcome undergraduates to work with them to publish their own creative work. The department also boasts an M.A. in English, which gives undergraduates a unique option to complete graduate classes during the senior year, and then continue on for a fifth year to earn a Master’s degree in English.

* Source: Waller, Nikki. “Hunting for Soft Skills, Companies Scoop Up English Majors.” *The Wall Street Journal*. October 25th, 2016.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER AN ENGLISH MAJOR IF YOU:

- Enjoy reading, writing, and communicating
- Find language intriguing and certain arguments elegant
- Enjoy the creative process
- Use language to reveal emotion and improve reason
- Desire a position of leadership in society
- Use language in a powerful, persuasive manner
- Seek to advocate for social justice
- Want to travel the across the world and throughout history, all in your mind
- Think big thoughts



CHERYL PEEVYHOUSE '04
Writer

Cheryl taught English for eight years before writing her debut science fiction novel, *Where Futures End*, published by Penguin in February 2016. Aside from being a writer, Cheryl also works part time for Help One Child, a non-profit which supports foster youth.

“My English professors at APU encouraged me to work toward publication, to believe in my efforts, and to challenge myself to improve.”



LAUREN JACOBS '17
Student at Pepperdine Law School

After Lauren graduates from law school in 2020, she plans to focus her practice in the area of mergers and acquisitions.

“English majors are required to read critically in order to analyze, compare, and contrast a wide variety of literature. These activities developed my ability to think critically which translated into invaluable skills for law school.”

ENGLISH MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Critical reading and writing in a variety of situations, genres and contexts
- Conducting project research
- Making strong, persuasive arguments
- Problem-solving and analytical skills
- Multitasking projects that require organization
- Working in a wide variety of fields and industries
- Vocational agility and flexibility
- Expressing empathy cross-culturally
- Working on teams with targeted outcomes

GRADUATES IN ENGLISH WORK AS:

- Speechwriters
- Reporters/journalists/humorists
- Technical writers
- Public relations specialists
- Lobbyists/lawyers/legal assistants
- Freelance writers
- Grant writers/research analysts
- Bloggers/vloggers
- Writers/producers for television, film, or radio
- Authors
- Editors/publishers
- Teachers/professors

**Many of these careers may require additional training and/or graduate education*



EMELI WARREN '12
Assistant Editor
Disney Worldwide Publishing

Emeli took advantage of the different opportunities APU offered: she studied abroad in Italy, was President of Sigma Tau Delta, helped organize the first Poetry Slam, was copyeditor for *Collide*, and much more. She says these all contributed to the success of her career, including receiving her Master's Degree.

“Through these experiences, I not only rounded out my resume with experience that related to my field, but I really got in the trenches of what it was like to do hands-on editing.”

To connect with these and other APU alumni, email clasalumni@apu.edu

STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN ENGLISH

OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE STUDIES IN LITERATURE (ENGL 111)**
Learn about fiction, drama, and poetry.
- **TAKE LITERARY CRITICAL STRATEGIES (ENGL 212)**
Explore literary criticism, and be introduced to the various sub-disciplines in English.
- **PRESENT YOUR CREATIVE WORK AT APU'S WRITER'S READ**
See what it's like to share your creative work with others, and connect with faculty and other students who share your passion to create.

- **LEARN HOW TO APPLY YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOUR ACADEMICS, LIFE, AND CAREER**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or Strengths Mentor.
- **CONSIDER CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR MAJOR**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or your faculty advisor to explore and discuss requirements for your career options.

BE PREPARED.

IDENTIFY. STRENGTHEN. PRACTICE.

- **TAKE ENGLISH INTERNSHIP (ENGL 490)**
Earn course credit while gaining professional experience in the workplace. Develop your resume, and your employment portfolio, while you reflect and build on your experience with other interns and your faculty guide.
- **WRITE FOR THE *CLAUSE* OR *COLLIDE***
Develop your writing skills while working for APU's campus newspaper or feature magazine.
- **TAKE A SERVICE LEARNING COURSE**
Volunteer working with children and teenagers while taking Children's Literature (ENGL 434) or Adolescent Literature (ENGL 436).
- **GET YOUR WORK PUBLISHED**
Work with your professors to find an outlet for your creative work.
- **TAKE TECHNICAL OR PROFESSIONAL WRITING (ENGL 360 OR ENGL 361)**
Explore careers where you can use your writing abilities in industry.
- **PRESENT AT SIGMA TAU DELTA**
Join this honor society and then present your work at one of their conferences.
- **CONSIDER THE 4 + 1 MASTERS PROGRAM**
During your senior year, take up to 6 units that can count toward a Master's degree while exploring if graduate education is right for you.

- **RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR INTERVIEWING ABILITIES**
Complete a Mock Interview with a Career Consultant*
- **CREATE A RESUME TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your resume and cover letter. Run them by your professors, too.
- **GROW YOUR SKILLS IN AN ON CAMPUS JOB OR STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION**
Talk to Student Employment or Student Life about the available opportunities.
- **VOLUNTEER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO SHAPE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**
Talk to the Center for Student Action about how you can serve.
- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**
Do informational interviews or go to a career-related event to learn more about your career, degree, and experience requirements.

BE CONNECTED.

JOIN. NETWORK. BE ACTIVE.

- **ATTEND DEPARTMENT TEA**
Chat with faculty and graduate students to explore their vocational paths and scholarly areas of interest.
- **CONNECT WITH THE SIGMA TAU DELTA NETWORK**
Network with thousands of English alumni from universities around the world through membership in this organization.
- **SIGN UP FOR THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**
Periodically update your information so you can stay connected with the department and fellow alumni.
- **FOLLOW [AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH ON FACEBOOK](#)**
Stay up-to-date on department activities.

- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**
Join [APUConnect.com](#) and start reaching out. You can also email clasalumni@apu.edu* for help connecting with alumni.
- **GET ACTIVE ON LINKEDIN**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your profile and learn how to use LinkedIn.
- **ATTEND CAREER-RELATED EVENTS**
Keep an eye out for career events related to your major or that are happening around campus.
- **HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON HAND**
Request them from professors and advisors at least a month before due.

* Visit apucareer.youcanbook.me/ to make an appointment with a Career Consultant

* Use subject line: Connect me with APU alumni

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

EXPLORE.



Learn more at
www.apu.edu/career/graduateschool

SELECT.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU

[Peterson's Guide](#)
GradSchools.com
[The Princeton Review](#)
[National Assoc. of Graduate Professional Students](#)
[The Council of Graduate Schools](#)
[APU Pew Society Graduate Guide](#)

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY APU ENGLISH GRADUATES:

[Yale University](#)
[Oxford University](#)
[Purdue University](#)
[University of Southern California](#)
[Claremont Graduate University](#)
[St. Andrews University](#)

APPLY.

- APPLICATION FORM AND FEES**
Follow instructions carefully and have one or more people check for errors.
- ENTRANCE ESSAY**
Provide a writing example that shows your personal objectives.
- TRANSCRIPT**
Ask APU to send it directly to the school you are applying to.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
Schools usually require three letters, so get them early.
- INTERVIEWS**
If your potential school requests an interview, treat it as a job interview.

FINDING YOUR CAREER

IDENTIFY.

- Search online job boards and professional associations in the English field
- Regularly check-in with your organizations of interest and network with those who can inform you of opportunities
- Look on APU Career Network for possible opportunities

ENGLISH ASSOCIATIONS:

[Association of Writers & Writing Programs](#)
[American Literature Association](#)
[The Conference on College Composition and Communication](#)
[Modernist Studies Association](#)
[Modern Language Association](#)
[International Society for the History of Rhetoric](#)
[Sigma Tau Delta](#)
[Rhetoric Society of America](#)
[Thomas Wolfe Society](#)
[Popular Culture Association](#)

PREPARE.

BRAINSTORM YOUR EXPERIENCE

What have you done? What is relevant?



TAILOR YOUR RESUME

What does the job description say?



WRITE GOOD BULLET POINTS

Do you focus on your accomplishments?



FORMAT YOUR RESUME

Is it easy to read and follow?



PRACTICE INTERVIEWING

Know yourself.
Know the position.
Know the organization.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

www.bls.gov/ooh/

O*NET ONLINE

www.onetonline.org

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE

www.weddles.com/associations

NETWORK.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?
WHO DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



WHY NETWORK?

- Learn about different options in your field
- Research companies and positions of interest
- Find hidden opportunities that are not advertised
- Obtain referrals from those who have influence

EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES THAT HIRE APU ENGLISH GRADUATES:

Corwin Press
Children's Hunger Fund
Atlanta Police Department
Los Angeles Unified School District
Asia Group-Jakarta
San Juan Hills High School
NBC
The Walt Disney Company
Maranatha High School