

The English major prepares you to read all kinds of texts ranging from literary to professional ones with deeper understanding, and to communicate that understanding effectively both in writing and speaking. Reading literature from diverse cultures and eras cultivates empathy and broad understanding of human experience. Writing about literature expands your insight into how human beings think and feel, not just today but in past times and distant places. Reading and writing about texts enable you to develop higher level thinking skills, which help you to solve problems in your workplace and the larger world.

**Understanding and communicating.** The study of English literature is one of the foremost Liberal Arts. It provides a foundation for understanding human nature and for communicating complex principles and knowledge. It is a rigorous field of study which can lead to any number of professional and employment opportunities, but it is also a way by which a life may be made richer. A major in English can truly lead to a more fulfilling life.

**Use your talents and interests.** Our literature courses explore a wide variety of genres and periods, from Shakespeare to science fiction. Business and technical writing courses prepare you for the workplace, and our other writing courses allow you to explore your creativity and ideas.

## Ambrose Advantages

**Engaged, caring faculty members.** At St. Ambrose, studying English is done in a personal, supportive, and entertaining environment. You will benefit from small classes where a community of learners is fostered by engaged, caring faculty members. Faculty view our students as individuals with diverse needs and talents, and our classrooms as places to stimulate one another on our learning journeys. With a variety of scholarly interests and professional backgrounds, faculty are eager to support your interests and goals.

**Beyond the classroom.** Here, you're able to participate in a variety of activities beyond the classroom, too. Students can design, edit and publish our literary and visual arts journal, Quercus, and write for our campus newspaper, The Buzz. You'll also be able to make connections with colleagues across campuses at undergraduate conferences or across continents through study abroad offerings.

**It's all about your success.** We pay attention to our students by being available and accessible. Students know they can reach us and feel comfortable making those contacts outside of class. We have discussion-based classroom formats, and make it our goal to engage each student during every class meeting. We keep track of



our students' attendance, and worry about their absences. If special circumstances arise, we are supportive and flexible. It is all about helping our students to succeed.

## Career Opportunities

The degree in English leads toward a broad spectrum of both professional and practical employment opportunities.

So what can you do with a degree in English? You might be surprised. An English major comes away with sophisticated critical thinking skills, which are evidenced by strong performances in comprehension of texts and communication through writing and speaking. By developing reading, writing, and speaking expertise,

English majors can perform at a high level in virtually any academic discipline, and be strong candidates to advance in graduate school, including in education, literary studies, law, medicine, business, library science, journalism, business, psychology, criminal justice, creative writing, social work, or speech language pathology.

English majors are sought-after employees by for-profit and non-profit businesses in human resources, financial research, marketing, communications, television or radio, public relations, and publishing. English majors have research skills that can benefit advertising firms, newspapers, magazines, event planners, government and social agencies, school and university administrations. English majors have skills in paying attention to details and multi-tasking, skills that are very desirable in any number of jobs. English majors are resourceful and have cultural literacy, enabling them to interact with clients, patients, or coworkers on a wide range of subject areas.

## Career Outlook

- > Writers and authors earned a median salary of \$55,940 in 2012.
- > Technical writing jobs are expected to grow by 15 percent through 2022. Tech writers earned a median salary of \$65,000 in 2012.
- > Public relations specialist is ranked No. 1 in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2014 ranking of Best Creative Jobs. More than 27,000 PR jobs are projected to be added through 2022.
- > Teaching positions ranked fourth (high school), sixth (middle school) and tenth (elementary school) among social service jobs in a 2014 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of jobs based on growth potential and job and salary satisfaction.
- > The median salary for high school teachers was \$55,000 in 2012.

## Alumni Success Stories

- > Ashlynn Maczko '18 is a graduate student at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- > Eric Herbst '16, English, is in marketing with Mississippi Valley Credit Union
- > Livv McDonald '16, Writing, is a Technical Writer at Twin State Technical Services
- > Mary Madormo '13, combined English and public relations majors to become a marketing coordinator for Nickelodeon
- > Amy Falvey Foley '05, English, professor of English at Scott Community College
- > Daniel Griffin '03, English, earned a law degree and is a state's attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney Office.
- > David Banash '93, English, is a professor of contemporary literature, film and popular culture at Western Illinois University.

## Where Some of Our Graduates Work

A few of the organizations that employ our English graduates:

- > Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Community Schools, English teacher
- > Daytrotter.com International Music Website, publicist
- > Everest College, media specialist
- > Muscatine (Iowa) Community High School, teacher
- > Newman Central Catholic High School, English teacher
- > Northeast Community High School, special education teacher
- > Scott County (Iowa) Library, youth services librarian
- > Self-employed, novelist and publisher
- > St. Ambrose University, English instructor and coordinator of English tutors
- > Sudlow Intermediate School, language arts teacher

## Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career. Communication and arts organizations in the Quad Cities are a rich community resource.

Writers and literary buffs will find a wealth of opportunities to work, learn and connect with others in the Quad Cities. Quad City Arts makes the fine arts accessible to thousands. The Midwest Writing Center hosts workshops and writing contests. For students interested in education, St. Ambrose also has strong connections to more than 150 public and private schools in the Quad City area.

All this makes the Quad Cities an exceptional place for networking, internships and jobs.

## Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563-333-6300 or [admit@sau.edu](mailto:admit@sau.edu), or go online to [www.sau.edu](http://www.sau.edu).

*St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in English, and a Bachelor of Arts in Writing. Minors are available in both of these areas. For complete information, consult the Course Catalog at [www.sau.edu/catalog](http://www.sau.edu/catalog).*

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