

CAREER OPTIONS FOR ENGLISH



An **English BA** is the foundation for careers that require excellent communication skills, the ability to effectively research, synthesize, analyze, and organize information, and the capacity to critically engage with complex ideas. These skills are in high-demand in today's labour force. You can enhance your academic skills and gain a competitive edge in the labour market by actively cultivating "real-life" experience and networks through work, volunteering, and campus experiences. You may also consider developing an additional area of academic specialization by pursuing a Minor.

Possible Career Choices

Cultural Advocate	Journalist
Teacher/Professor	Public Relations/Press Agent
Writer/Editor	Media Development Consultant
Librarian/Archivist	Lawyer
Curator	Government Researcher
Publisher	Marketing/Advertising Communication Specialist

Note: Further education may be required for some of these career choices.

Possible Minor Options

Acting/Dance Studies	Business Communication
Curatorial Studies	Law
Film (Cinema) Studies	News Studies
History	Visual Studies
Politics	
Non-profit and Voluntary Sector Management	

Note: More minor options are available. See Ryerson's Minor Policy online in the Undergraduate Course Calendar.

Occupational Research

Want to learn more about the main duties and employment requirements for various careers? Check out the National Occupation website at: <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/Welcome.aspx>. Use the searchable database to find out more about the employment requirements of careers that may interest you – and how you can better prepare for such careers through the academic and extra-curricular choices you make. Examples of some of the many occupations that you can explore in the National Occupation database -- as well as the four-digit code by which they can be searched in the database -- include: Research Editor (0312), Social Policy Research (4161), Interactive Media Writer (5121), Public Relations/Communication Specialist (5124), Advertising Publication Manager (5122), Teacher/Professor (4121), or Lawyer (4112).

0312 Research Editor
1121 Employee Relations Officer
1244 Court Reporter
3141 Speech Language Pathologist
4112 Lawyer
4121 Teacher/Professor
4131 Vocational Instructor
4141 English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher
4161 Social Policy Research

4166 Curriculum Planner
4169 Linguist
5111 Information Specialist
5121 Interactive Media Writer
5122 Advertising Publication Manager
5123 Journalist/Editor, Drama Critic
5124 Public Relations/Communication Specialist
5125 Translator/Conference Interpreter
5231 Radio/Television Broadcaster
6481 Public Speaking Consultant

Skill Identification

Identifying the marketable skills that you are gaining through your English BA studies is an important step in helping you create a resumé, get ready for a job interview, or write a statement of intent for graduate studies. The questions set out below will help you identify the skills you have developed through your education and other life experiences:

How have you demonstrated communication/critical thinking?

- Awareness of theoretical framework for analysis?
- Understanding of social inequalities and policies?
- Ability to work with diverse groups?

What experience do you have with project coordination?

- Planning and designing long-term projects?
- Organization of resources for planning and completing plans?
- Ability to integrate knowledge from a wide variety of disciplines?

How have you developed interpersonal relations?

- Organization and consistency in expression of ideas?
- Establishing/working with community partners?
- Recognition of need for further learning to make social improvements?

When have you gathered and organized data?

- Collected and maintained data for analysis?
- Reached conclusions through theoretical analysis?

Sources for More Information

Association of Canadian College & University Teachers of English	acute.ca
Association of Canadian Publishers	publishers.ca
Canadian Association of Journalists	caj.ca
Canadian Libraries Association	cla.ca
Carswell Thomsom Legal Publishing	carswell.ca
Career Cruising (Canadian)	careercruising.com
Onet (American)	onetonline.org
Charity Village	charityvillage.com
Editors' Association of Canada	editors.ca
Department of Justice (Canada)	justice.gc.ca/eng/dept-min/recru/index.html
Professional Writers Association of Canada	pwac.ca
Society for Technical Communication	stc.org
Talent Egg	talentegg.ca

Next Steps

Career counselling can assist you with self-assessment for the world of work; career exploration and planning; educational planning; job search techniques; cover letter and resumé preparation; graduate and professional school applications; and interview preparation.

- Explore how your academic training can be transferred to the labour market.
- Develop an educational and career plan.
- Find out where to go with your questions regarding your job search.
- Talk about your worries regarding what you want to do when you graduate.
- Identify which career options are best for you.

For more information, please visit the Student Experience Centre website:
ryerson.ca/arts/sec