**Why You Should Become an English Major**

**Guaranteed Placement at a CSU**

For starters, English is one of the degrees that guarantees you placement at a CSU. If you’re currently pursuing a major that doesn’t guarantee you placement, majoring (or double-majoring) in English can offer you this opportunity, not to mention that it will help you develop important, transferable skills—such as the ability to write clearly and think analytically—that will complement your existing major.

**Employment**

Further, the major provides an excellent preparation for careers in business, public service, education, law, and many other areas. Some students major in English because they plan to become teachers, but most English majors pursue other career paths. In fact, in 2012, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that communication, the ability to clearly articulate your point of view, would be the most valuable job skill in 2013. The development of analytical thinking, evidenced-based writing, and editing skills makes English not only an extremely marketable major, but the perfect minor for all other majors.

As [Jordan Weissman pointed out in The Atlantic](http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/06/the-best-argument-for-studying-english-the-employment-numbers/277162/), English majors aren’t actually faring as poorly in the job market as the cultural dialogue would have us believe. According to 2010-2011 data from the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, cited by The Atlantic, right after graduating, English and history majors reported 9.8% and 9.5% unemployment, respectively, while economics and political science graduates came in at 10.4% and 11.1% percent. “Practical” computer science degrees didn’t make graduates much more employable, with the comp sci unemployment rate coming in at 8.7% percent. And that’s just employment outcomes right after school; the picture may get rosier as time goes on, as [employers generally prefer liberal arts grads](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/16/employers-liberal-arts-interns-college-grads-survey_n_1522144.html#s986511&title=College_Preparing_Grads), according to a 2012 survey.

**Increase Brain Functionality**

Need another good reason to study English? Your brain could significantly benefit from it. [Recent neuroscience research](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201401/reading-fiction-improves-brain-connectivity-and-function), published in the journal Brain Connectivity, found that reading fiction improved a variety of brain functions, including enhanced empathy and improved imagination and visualization abilities. Reading also improves cognition and mental health, [helping us to destress, sleep better and even help you stay sharp](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/12/health-benefits-reading_n_4081258.html).

**Still unsure? Look at the research!**

* “As advancing technology takes over more of the world’s left-brain work, the skills of deep human interaction, of leadership, are increasingly in demand. What a liberal arts education gives you – critical thinking, clear communication, the lessons of Homer – is growing more valuable, not less,” says [Geoff Colvin](http://fortune.com/2016/06/02/what-future-leaders-need-to-learn-in-college/?iid=leftrail), senior editor at *Fortune*.
* *WSJ Small Business* expert [David Kalt](http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2016/06/01/why-i-was-wrong-about-liberal-arts-majors/) says, “A well-rounded liberal arts degree establishes a foundation of critical thinking. Critical thinkers can accomplish anything…A critical thinker is a self-learning machine that is not constrained by memorizing commands or syntax.”
* “You wouldn’t believe how great a field business is for English majors. You have to be creative, and, unlike those who actually graduate with a business degree, you have no preconceived notion of what business should be. It’s a much easier transition than for those who have an idea already set in stone in their minds.” – [Chris Shuptrine in *The Pioneer*](http://thepioneer.co/2016/03/22/chris-shuptrine-raising-the-bar-on-strength-training/)
* *Forbes*: [That ‘Useless’ Liberal Arts Degree Has Become Tech’s Hottest Ticket](http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgeanders/2015/07/29/liberal-arts-degree-tech/)
* *Washington Post*: [Tech companies are hiring more liberal-arts majors than you think](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2015/08/26/tech-companies-are-hiring-more-liberal-arts-majors-than-you-think/)
* [Why study liberal arts?](http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2014/10/14/Why-study-liberal-arts/stories/201410140036)
* [Liberal arts majors that pay the most](http://blogs.wsj.com/atwork/2014/05/15/the-liberal-arts-majors-that-pay-the-most/)
* Find out [why English majors are the hot new hires](https://www.openforum.com/articles/why-english-majors-are-the-hot-new-hires/).
* Steve Strauss [offers several reasons why](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-strauss/hiring-english-majors_b_3484409.html) he prefers to hire English majors, including their critical thinking skills and writing abilities.
* Read more about [must-have job skills for 2013](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324735104578118902763095818.html?KEYWORDS=must+have+job+skills+in+2013).
* Read Michael Bérubé’s article [“My View: What will you do with an English degree? Plenty.”](http://schoolsofthought.blogs.cnn.com/2013/01/04/my-view-what-will-you-do-with-an-english-degree-plenty/%20)
* Read and listen to the NPR story: [“A Top Medical School Revamps Requirements to Lure English Majors”](http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/05/27/407967899/a-top-medical-school-revamps-requirements-to-lure-english-majors)