

Why study English?

- **You want to read all the things.** *You will have the opportunity to read deeply in wide range of genres, eras, and traditions. Choose from courses such as YA Literature, Shakespeare, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Romanticism, LGBTQ Literature, and Native American Literature.*
- **You are a writer.** *Whether you want to be a poet or a blogger, a filmmaker or a community organizer, you will hone your voice in writing-intensive courses. Learn to write everything from short stories, persuasive essays, and op-eds to websites, lesson plans, and video games.*
- **You love a good discussion.** *In small classes that encourage collaboration and conversation, you will get to know your professors and peers on a first-name basis. Exciting debates about meaning, representation, narrative, and identity will continue beyond the classroom.*
- **You crave creative and intellectual community.** *Workshop your writing with the Cortland Writers' Association. Meet nationally-known authors through the Distinguished Voices in Literature Series. Talk teaching in the English Education Club. Present research with Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honors Society. Travel to England with your faculty.*
- **You need flexibility.** *Choose from three different majors in English, Professional Writing, or Adolescence English Education. Add a minor in Literature, Writing, or Language with only six courses. Earn a Master's Degree in English or English Teaching while working full time.*

“But what can I do with that?”

Whatever you want! *No, seriously. English, Professional Writing, and Adolescence English Education majors have more flexibility when pursuing jobs because their skills transfer to so many different career paths. Employers are hungry for experts in writing, editing, communication, and interpretation. Our alumni are teachers, lawyers, novelists, librarians, doctors, filmmakers, business people, and broadcasters. They work in fields as diverse as publishing and medicine, marketing and education. To learn about our alumni, click on “Our Graduates” on our homepage. For career resources, click on “What can I do with my major?” and “Graduate Studies 101.” To see “What skills will I learn?” turn this sheet over.*

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What skills will I learn in my major?

- Creativity, imagination, and empathy
- Curiosity and the ability to ask new questions
- Writing for diverse audiences
- Persuasion and the creation of compelling arguments
- Communicating complex information clearly
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Teaching and mentorship
- Revision, editing, and proofreading
- Storytelling and narrative
- Confidence to speak in front of others
- Thinking on your feet
- Analysis of meaning in its complexity
- Close reading, textual analysis, and attention to detail
- Ability to connect details to big-picture problems
- Research and information literacy
- Time management and the ability to design and complete long-term projects
- Sensitivity to historical and social contexts
- Critical understanding of a diverse and multicultural society
- Engagement with gender, race, class, sexuality, and other intersections of identity
- Appreciation for the power and relevance of literature, language, art, and culture

These are just some of the skills you can include in a cover letter and resume. As you apply to jobs, tell a story about how your skills meet the position's needs.

But... I don't know *what* I want to do.

That's okay and super normal! College is a space to figure out what questions, problems, and passions drive you. Instead of thinking about what you want to “be” or “do,” think about what problems you want to solve. What debates make you speak up in class? What questions inspire your writing projects? What readings capture your imagination? Pay attention to these moments and look for common themes. They will help you figure out the problems you want to address with your skills as an English, Professional Writing, or Adolescence English Education major.