

CAREERS FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

English

The career possibilities open to Villanova English majors are endless. They become successful lawyers, editors, novelists, investment bankers, professors, magazine writers, teachers, and executives in advertising and public relations, among many other lucrative, rewarding, and prestigious fields. Probably no other major leads to so many different job possibilities.

Villanova English majors bring valued skills to their careers—they develop ideas in an organized and persuasive way, read insightfully, and write clearly. These are the competencies employers and professional schools most desire. We also help our students obtain internships and other experiences outside the classroom so they are ready to walk into the world of work.

Department of English
Villanova University
Saint Augustine Center Room 402
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Tel. 610.519.4630
www.villanova.edu/artsci/english



RECENT ENGLISH ALUMNI



AMANDA DOYLE, Class of 2010
OCCUPATION Olympics Researcher, NBC
MAJOR English

Doyle helps shape the editorial content of NBC's Olympic broadcast. She travels to competitions around the world to put together comprehensive research manuals, which inform the network's programming, marketing, and production. She also writes and produces features that air during the Olympics. She will be going to the Rio Olympics.

"I've never doubted my decision to major in English at Villanova, especially as I've traveled down an unconventional career path. Writing is an integral part of my job, and the ability to write everything from internal memos to colorful profiles is a skill I developed over four years at Villanova. Most importantly, majoring in English taught me to stay curious about the world, which allowed me to thrive in a creative industry and find a career that I love."



JESSICA HURST, Class of 2007
OCCUPATION Labor & Employment Attorney, Cozen O'Connor
MAJOR English
MINORS Honors (concentration), Spanish, Business

Hurst performs legal research, writes briefs, and represents clients in court, keeping them informed and protected in dealing with discrimination cases, union negotiations, government inquiries, and more.

"The study of English is especially valuable for attorneys because most of what we do involves analysis of texts. We need to be able to efficiently read, synthesize, and analyze written documents and communicate our findings in a way the court or the client will understand. That's what English majors at Villanova do—learn to write concisely, directly, and logically."



JOHN SZOT, Class of 2015
OCCUPATION Analyst, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
MAJORS English, Honors, and Biology

Szot is an incoming analyst on Bank of America's foreign exchange desk, where he will trade G10 currencies.

"My studies in English prepared me for a successful career at Bank of America, where I have found my ability to articulate an argument in both speech and writing—a staple of any Villanova English course—to be absolutely vital. At Villanova, I learned to analyze and synthesize information from texts, speakers, and various other media; these skills are invaluable in any field or occupation. I know the ability to think critically, formulate unique and compelling opinions, and communicate effectively will serve both me and all Villanova English majors well in our careers, regardless of the paths we choose to pursue."

The Value of English at Villanova

Our majors encounter a range of texts, from the most revered classics to the newest celebrated works, by a range of writers representing vastly different experiences and points of view. An outstanding faculty inspires excellence in writing, thinking, and speaking. Classes are small, the curriculum is personalized, and the environment is collaborative.

From Classroom to Career

English majors connect with hundreds of loyal English alumni through our **private LinkedIn Group**, which offers a priceless network of professionals in a wide range of careers who were eager to join the group whether they graduated last year or 50 years ago.



Majors also benefit from an innovative **Professional Development Program** that helps identify strengths, explore careers, and build professional skills. English majors learn how to market themselves in the workplace.

The college **Bridge Society** forges connections with employers in fields including advertising, public relations, business, banking, government, health, and law.

Career Center staff members also assist English majors and other Arts majors in the transition to the workplace.

Notable Alumni of Villanova English

Catherine Keating, President and CEO, Commonfund institutional investment firm, formerly Head of Investment Management Americas, JPMorgan Chase

Diana Sugg, Pulitzer Prize for Beat Reporting for the Baltimore Sun

Charles Heimbold, former U. S. Ambassador to Sweden and Chairman and CEO, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Jim Gorant, Senior Editor, Sports Illustrated
Dominique DuMouchel, VP, Talent Development Leader, Glenmede Trust

Herbert Aspbury, former Managing Director and CEO for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, Chase Manhattan Bank

Eileen Sullivan, Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, Associated Press

Gerry Marzorati, General Manager and Editorial Director, Conferences, NY Times

Paula Sutter, CEO, TSG Fashion, formerly President of Diane von Furstenberg

Christopher Maguire, owner at Maguire Hayden Real Estate, formerly President and COO, Philadelphia Insurance Companies

Margaret Mallon, Senior Digital Producer, Glamour Magazine

Karen Trosset, Producer, NBC Today Show
Meghan Kenny Hopkins, Senior Communications Strategist, Quest Diagnostics

Jill Bernardes, Senior Director, Internal Communications, Ameriprise Financial

Jason Burritt, Partner, Business Immigration group, Seyfarth Shaw law firm

Ryan Costella, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Click Bond

RECENT ENGLISH ALUMNI



BETH KREIDER, Class of 2007
OCCUPATION Global Project Manager, QVC
MAJOR English
MINORS Women's Studies, Spanish

Kreider works for the world's largest multi-media retailer, where she establishes project requirements, identifies resources, develops plans, manages milestones, and drives projects through to completion. She is also managing a marketing campaign showcasing all of the rewards employees get for what they give.

"It was my love for stories that led me to study English in college. QVC's business model is based on creating and telling product stories, and this approach to conducting our business weaves into what we do in HR as well. Exploring character development and meaningful themes in literature helped me see how multi-faceted human beings truly are, and this lens helps me every day when interacting with my colleagues and our employees. The strong writing and analytical skills don't hurt either."



MAX STENDAHL, Class of 2010
OCCUPATION Senior Reporter, Law 360, a LexisNexis Company legal news service
MAJORS English, Honors, and Political Science

Stendahl specializes in stories on securities law and white collar crime.

"Studying English at Villanova prepared me for a career in journalism, where the ability to write and speak cogently is critical. As an English major, I learned how to read and comprehend difficult texts, organize my thoughts, and present compelling, persuasive arguments. I also learned how to accept constructive criticism and improve my work through the editing process. These skills are valuable in any field."



JACKIE LEBOWITZ, Class of 2006
OCCUPATION Product Manager, The New York Times
MAJOR English
MINORS Art History, Italian

Lebowitz works as a product manager for The Times website, which has over 70 million unique visitors every month and over one million digital subscribers. She helps increase user engagement and subscription growth while delivering prioritized product features to stakeholders, and she interacts with designers, editors, developers, and advertising/marketing on a daily basis to launch new projects and maintain and optimize the current site.

"Majoring in English made me an independent thinker and taught me to communicate my thoughts and experiences clearly. Whether you work in PR, publishing, finance, or marketing, technology can always be learned. However, clear, concise communication with coworkers and other industry contacts is highly valued. Today, many people graduate with inadequate writing and speaking skills, highlighting the importance of effective communication in the corporate and professional world."

Internships, Co-ops and Advising

The study of English instills lifelong knowledge, and our graduates also develop specific skills that qualify them for particular careers. They often receive such training through internships, either for credit or for compensation. Recent English majors have interned with a number of employers, including the following:

English majors at Villanova have the rare opportunity to work with highly respected professionals at **Sports Illustrated** Magazine, researching and writing stories. Each semester, one English major lives in New York and works for the magazine, earning both compensation and course credit.



CNN
Philadelphia District Attorney
U.S. Olympic Committee
The Independent (London)
Sports Illustrated
Philadelphia Magazine
Weil, Gotshal & Manges (law)
Cosmopolitan Magazine
Oppenheimer Fund
Philadelphia Inquirer

The New Yorker
Details Magazine
Fox News
Michael Kors
USA Today
Philadelphia Flyers
Harper Collins Publishers
United States Conservancy
Health Magazine
The Irish Voice

The English department has specific **advisors** not only for students seeking internships, but also for those entering the fields of **business** and **education**. For more information, see the links on our English home page.

"I love English majors. I love how smart they are. I love their intellectual curiosity. And I love their bold choice for a major. **Most of all, I love to hire them.**"

—Business expert Steve Strauss, in "Why I Hire English Majors" (Huffington Post, June 2013)



MICHAEL MURRAY, Class of 2011
OCCUPATION Financial Advisor,
Vanguard
MAJOR English
MINOR Business

Murray engages in consultations with individual investors to help them plan for retirement and other important financial goals.

"Because I majored in English at Villanova, I have the communication skills necessary to succeed in life and especially in my job. I talk to people from all 50 states and overseas, people of all different ages and types. I can explain things well both verbally and in writing. I definitely picked the right career because I love talking and writing about money. Right now I'm a Certified Financial Planner and I'm considering returning to school for an MBA."



CATHERINE BUCARIA, Class of 2011
OCCUPATION Assistant Acquisitions Editor,
Penguin Random House Audio and Large Print
MAJOR English
MINOR Honors (concentration), Business

Bucaria reviews manuscripts, runs profit & loss analyses, and negotiates rights for audiobook and large print titles. She helps to assemble and present a list of around 700 audiobooks and 40 large print books per year. She also curates a number of digital initiatives.

"At Villanova, I was constantly challenged by the readings, the professors, and the variety of courses that are required for an English major. My work in those classes prepared me for workplace situations where a clear and concise, yet creative solution is required. My ability to process and comprehend material and then summarize and extrapolate on the main points is a direct result of the work I did as an English major. Thorough, thoughtful analysis of any reading or data becomes second nature to English majors and will set you apart once you enter the professional world."