

## THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES OF THE ENGLISH DEGREE

"What an English major brings to career possibilities is the ability to think critically, speak articulately, write lucidly and precisely, and to read powerfully, deftly, and with understanding of subtleties and nuances. They know how language works and have the written and oral skills to communicate effectively."

--Daniel Schwarz, "What to Do With a B.A. in English?"  
from *The Huffington Post*

Of course, the first thing people imagine when they think of getting an English degree is teaching high school. Teaching is certainly a noble profession, but there are many career paths one can pursue with an English degree outside of teaching due to the excellent training provided in this field.

### Career Paths Besides Teaching

The Department of English at Stanford University suggests that there are many possible career paths in fields other than teaching:

- **Journalism**
- **Publishing**
- **Entertainment**
- **Public Relations**
- **Non-Profit**
- **Medicine**
- **Mental Health**
- **Law**
- **Finance**
- **Technology**

### Unique Career Niches

There are all sorts of career niches—some of which you may not have considered—that are looking for people with English degrees, especially since English majors tend to be well read and adept at critical thinking. For instance, one can seek employment as one of these:

- **Social Media Community Manager**
- **Social Media Copywriting Coordinator**
- **Commerce Journalist**

### Graduate School Options

With a BA in English, one can certainly pursue a graduate degree in a humanities field, such as **English, literature, comparative literature, philosophy, or history**. But there are also non-humanities graduate degrees one may pursue after obtaining a BA in English. Here are just a few:

- **Master of Library Science (MLS) or Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS)**
- **Juris Doctor (JD)** \*Law schools and law firms are always looking for candidates with strong logical reasoning skills *and* strong written and oral communication skills.
- **Ph.D. in Physics** \*Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, earned her BA in English at Stanford before going on to earn an MS and Ph.D. in Physics.

### Joining the Ranks of the Rich and Famous

Finally, earning a degree in English lets you join the ranks of many famous people who also graduated with a BA in English, including Reese Witherspoon, Governor Mitt Romney, Diane Sawyer, Senator Chris Dodd, Conan O'Brien, Barbara Walters, Jody Foster, James Franco, and Sting, to name a few.

**For more information, visit Counseling Services, located in SSC-167 or contact the English Department Co-Chair, Suki Fisher: [sfisher@saddleback.edu](mailto:sfisher@saddleback.edu)**