Recommendations

B.A. English

To learn more about making the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:
Rebecca Stern, Program Coordinator, stern2@mailbox.sc.edu
PARTICIPATE

Community Service

Related Courses
ENGL 399 Independent Study / Internship; ENGL 461 The Teaching of Writing

Recommended sites/experiences
Our Students have had wonderful experiences with internships, for which they receive University credit through ENGL 399. In addition to their work with local literacy programs such as Cocky’s Reading Express, English majors have interned with national publications including Redbook Magazine and National Geographic; with consulting firms and local television stations; and at film studios and cinemas. Additional opportunities include work with public libraries, community centers, after-school programs, and shelters.

Why this is important
Community service links students with people and experiences beyond the University. It provides organizations with services they need and students with invaluable experience.

Getting started
Contact the Undergraduate Director, who will assist you in locating an appropriate community service opportunity and faculty sponsor.

Global Learning

Related Courses
Many of our students study abroad. In the past year alone, English majors have studied in Italy, England, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, and Ireland. In preparation for study abroad, the Undergraduate Director works with each student to select classes relevant to the major and to his or her interests.

Furthermore, we have very strong faculty in transnational and global literature. Our course offerings include ENGL 270 World Literature; ENGL 438B Scottish Literature; ENGL 438C Irish Literature; ENGL 438D African Literature; ENGL 438E Caribbean Literature; and many courses in British Literature. Our ENGL 439 Special Topics courses often include offerings in global literature and culture. We also offer ENGL 399 Independent Study for students interested in pursuing particular specializations under a professor’s guidance.

Recommended Timing
Junior year, for study abroad; courses at USC can be taken in any year.

Why this is important
The study of global literatures enhances students’ awareness of cultures within and beyond the Western world. Our faculty’s strengths in colonial and postcolonial literatures in particular contribute to our students’ consciousness of global exchange, power structures, and rhetorics. Study abroad can be an invaluable part of undergraduate education and offers the chance for unique insights into the literatures and cultures we study in the United States.
Peer Leadership

Related experiences
The department features two student-run organizations: INK! and The Lettered Olive. INK!, the Undergraduate English Association, meets regularly to discuss common readings, to share writing, to attend talks, and even to see films. Each spring, INK! runs an undergraduate conference featuring student research and creative work.

The Lettered Olive is a student-run and edited journal that publishes fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and visual art.

Getting started
Contact the Undergraduate English Office at 777-2138 or email the director at stern2@mailbox.sc.edu.

Internships

Program requirements
ENGL 399+internship contract

Recommended sites/work experiences
Local publications, editing firms, television stations, online publications; also see the community service opportunities listed above.

Why this is important
It helps students to integrate their course experiences with professional opportunities

Getting started
Contact the Undergraduate English Office at 777-2138 or email the director at stern2@mailbox.sc.edu.

Research

Related Courses
ENGL 399 (if relevant); ENGL 499; many upper level courses

Many of our courses stress research of various kinds, including archival, web based, and cutting edge print resources. Students interested in writing a thesis do so under ENGL 499, in which they work closely with a professor on an extended research project.

Sample Research Projects/Topics
Thesis; archival research

Why this is important
Research advances students’ intellectual experience and enhances their capacities for independent work.

INTEGRATE

How to integrate
Many of our internship contracts require regular journal entries and/or a final essay in which the student reflects on the significance of their experience in regard to their major or their overall studies. Students seeking Distinction in English present their work in a public venue, sharing their research with broader audiences.
Initial career opportunities
Our graduates succeed in a wide range of careers. Many pursue employment opportunities that involve writing, critical thought, intelligent analysis, and creative planning.

Related graduate programs
The English department at USC offers outstanding preparation for many graduate programs within and beyond the Humanities. Many students go on to MA, MFA, MAT, and Ph.D programs in Literature, Composition and Rhetoric, Creative Writing, and Secondary Education, but English also provides a solid foundation for students pursuing degrees in Law, History, and Medicine (see the recent push from Mount Sinai School of Medicine for students majoring in English). Your advisor will work closely with you to develop a program of study that supports your interests.

Future career opportunities
English graduates excel on many career paths, from teaching to law, from editing to medicine, from writing novels to writing policy. Our English majors develop skills with broad applicability: many employers give preference to candidates who write well, are able to analyze complex ideas, are skilled in both rhetoric and research, and have the ability to address complicated challenges creatively.

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your major. See the USC Connect experiences database to search for more opportunities. www.sc.edu/uscconnect/participate