

Graduate Students in English

give their perspectives on the topic

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AH 208

What Do You Do With an English Degree?

TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION Technical communication is a part of your everyday life. Someone wrote the online manual you referenced to help use the Microsoft Word program. That same person may have also assisted the web page designer. Both people are technical communicators. Think of the survey you answered about a product or service and the resulting proposal for changes based on the gathered information. Again, both are technically communicating information. Or, finally, remember all of those PowerPoint presentations you have viewed? Those people were using technology to communicate information. The courses in the Technical Communication department are designed to train students to use technology to communicate information effectively to those who need that information. These skills are important whether you intend to become a technical writer, web designer, trainer, or a business professional.—**Paul Dobratz**

LITERATURE— Exploring study in the literature track of the English department focuses on to specific works that range from fiction, non-fiction, poetry and film. These classes approach study of Literature from a multicultural, multifocal and critical approach. Discussion of theme, plot, tropes and genre are often explored. Study in the Literature track prepares the student for careers in publishing, education, law, editing, and administration to name a few. This option however is not limited to these careers. The skills gained in critical thinking and communication can be applied to almost any career. There are students who have been or become Mathematicians, Nurses, etc... that have English Literature to thank for valuable, marketable skills that have aided them in these types of careers. —**Joe Finn**

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE I always wondered what I could do with my BA in English, until I began pursuing an MA in TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language). I had always been a passionate language learner and interested in diverse backgrounds and cultures. TESL's program by nature caters to diversity and cross-cultural learning. The program also gives you the opportunity to experience language learning from all angles, which allows you the tools to appropriately teach non-native speakers English. In this field you have the opportunity to not only help and teach others, you can use your knowledge and skills in a variety of ways in countless places not just in North America. TESL is a lucrative field that is growing worldwide and offers a successful career path upon graduation. The field is an exciting and ever changing, which always lends further opportunities for growth and research in how we teach English to non-native speakers. And I greatly look forward to the opportunities I will have graduating with a TESL Masters.—**Jessica Selleck**

CREATIVE WRITING What's it like to be a graduate student of creative writing? It starts with a lot of drafting. Most students take at least one workshop each semester of the three year program. These workshops usually have around fifteen students each, and meet once or twice a week. Although instructors' styles and approaches vary, during workshops, the students play a major role in discussing and assessing the work of their peers. Unlike some schools, at MNSU you are invited to take workshops outside the genre you've been accepted into; for example, poets are welcome in fiction classes. But that's not all. As a candidate for a Masters of Fine Arts degree, you will be expected to take a number of courses to better understand the craft of creative writing, as well as classes that study what contemporary writers are doing. The capstone project for this degree is a thesis of creative work, and each student works directly with two readers while revising their work and improving it.—**Sarah Johnson**

ENGLISH STUDIES Studying for a Bachelors in English Studies is ideal for anyone with a wide range of interests. Students in this program take classes across the department. They get to choose from from courses that range from novels, classic literature, film, contemporary and world literature, and theory to Teaching English as a Second Language, creative writing, and technical communications. Students also have the benefit of studying with any of the professors in the English department. The English Studies program offers students the opportunity to explore a diverse curriculum with a variety of professors to earn a degree that prepares them for a great number of careers: publishing, teaching, writing, editing, and any career that requires strong written and verbal skills.—**Dana Bruhn**

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