

CAREER BRIEF



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD

Department of English

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN ENGLISH?

NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY:

- \$51,936 per year

DEGREES:

- **Bachelor's Degree** in English Language and Literature
- **Bachelor's Degree** in Communications or Media Studies

SUGGESTED CLASSES:

- **ENGL 2100:** Intro to Creative Writing
- **ENGL 4120:** Creative Writing: Fiction
- **ENGL 4130:** Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
- **ENGL 4740:** Orpheus
- **ENGL 4750:** Calliope
- **COMM 2110:** Issues and Practices in Journalism
- **COMM 2160:** News Production (The Runner)
- **COMM 3120:** Digital Journalism
- **COMM 3130:** Feature Writing

RELATED MINOR(S):

- Minor in Creative Writing

Journalist

“The Press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man” – Thomas Jefferson

A journalist gathers, writes, and shares news and information with the public through newspapers, magazines, websites, television, or radio. English majors are well suited for this type of job given their experience writing and finding strong sources and evidence. Being a journalist allows English majors to dive deep into a very specific category or work across categories as a general assignment reporter. Either way, English majors can leverage their research and storytelling skills to bring newsworthy stories to light.

Professional Organizations:

- **Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)** – <https://www.spj.org/>
- **National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)** – <https://nabjonline.org/>
- **National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ)** – <https://nahj.org/>
- **Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE)** – <https://www.ire.org/>

Credentials/Certifications/Certificates:

- **Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ)** – <https://www.spj.org/journalism-training/>
- **Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE)** – <https://www.ire.org/training/>
- **Poynter e-learning** – <https://www.ire.org/training/>
- **Knight Center** - <https://journalismcourses.org/>