

CAREER BRIEF



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAKERSFIELD

Department of English

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DEGREE IN ENGLISH?

NATIONAL AVERAGE SALARY:

- \$102,107 per year

DEGREES:

- **Bachelor's Degree** in English or related field
- **Master's Degree** in English or related field
- **PhD Degree** in English, English Education, Composition & Rhetoric, or Linguistics
- **MFA Degree** for Creative Writers

EXPECTATIONS:

- Specialization in a specific concentration, such as 18th-century British Literature, Composition & Rhetoric, or Linguistics
- The ability to conduct academic research and regularly publish peer-reviewed articles or books
- Academic citizenship through participation in faculty committees and mentoring of students

University English Professor

University English Professors develop and teach courses in their area(s) of specialty, while also actively engaging in scholarly research and writing. The latter often includes presenting at academic conferences, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, or producing scholarly monographs in their area(s) of specialty. University professors are also expected to teach a full course load (often 3 to 4 classes per semester) and assume regular service responsibilities (serving on faculty committees, holding leadership roles in the department, etc.). A PhD is required to become a university English professor, and universities hire candidates whose specializations best fit the needs of the department. Thus, university professors should have a passion not only for teaching, but also for scholarship and publishing in their respective fields.

Professional Organizations:

Literature & Theory:

- **Modern Language Association (MLA)** – <https://www.mla.org/>
- **American Literature Association (ALA)** – <https://americanliteratureassociation.org/>
- **College English Association (CEA)** – <https://cea-web.org/>

Composition & Rhetoric:

- **National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)** – <https://ncte.org/>
- **Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA)** – https://www.wpacouncil.org/aws/CWPA/pt/sp/home_page

Linguistics:

- **Linguistic Society of America (LSA)** – <https://www.lsadc.org/>
- **American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)** – <https://www.aal.org/>

Creative Writing:

- **Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)** – <https://awpwriter.org/AWP/AWP/AWP-Homepage.aspx>