English majors learn to be careful and passionate readers, critical and creative thinkers, and highly effective researchers and communicators. The English major prepares students to live in a complex world and to become agents of change in their personal, professional and communal lives. The English department at Stony Brook combines the high academic standards of a major research university with the intimacy of a small liberal arts college. In small classes (averaging 23-35 students) English majors have the opportunity to interact closely with faculty who are active scholars and writers.

The experiences and skills of an English major are highly valued in today’s job market. In a world that is constantly being reshaped by fluctuating economic conditions, new global markets and emergent technologies, employers need individuals who know how to learn and how to communicate in diverse environments.

Transferable Skills

- Thinking critically and analytically
- Strong reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Research; information gathering and synthesis
- Persuasive and rhetorical skills
- Teaching skills
- Leadership and interpersonal skills
- Conveying information clearly, concisely, & tactfully
- Understanding other cultures through close reading
- Finding solutions to intricate problems
- Time management

Career Communities to Consider

- Arts & Comunications
- Public Service
- Education & Helping Professions
- Business