This tool will provide you with the information you need for academic planning and connect you with experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that employers are seeking.

**ENGLISH LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

Literature connects us in vital ways to times, places and cultures, including our own. The department of English, film, and theatre offers a wide range of courses that cover literature from medieval England to the present and that provide instruction in theoretical approaches and critical methods. The department also offers courses in film, theatre and creative writing.

**SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN BY STUDYING ENGLISH LITERATURE**

- A comprehensive knowledge of the English language (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- The ability to analyze text and make connections between language, form, structure and meaning
- The ability to reflect upon the capacities of the human mind and imagination
- The ability to think critically and develop innovative responses to important moral and social questions

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**WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?**

Industries such as communications, education, film and theatre, government and publishing would value an English literature degree in combination with the employability skills that are highly sought after by employers. These include:

- Oral and written communication
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Digital technology
- Numeracy and data use
- Industry-specific knowledge
- Continuous learning

Attain skills through your classroom education by taking advantage of experiential education opportunities.

Information has been taken directly from Employability Skills 2000 and Workplace Education Manitoba – Essential Skills.

**WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION?**

Experiential education will enhance your classroom education by giving you hands-on experience that will resonate with employers. The University of Manitoba offers a wide variety of programs designed to facilitate your personal growth, connect you with others and ignite your active engagement in the local and global community.

**EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Work experience opportunities
- International student exchanges, international internships and travel study
- Local and international service-learning opportunities
- Undergraduate research and entrepreneurship
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities

The English Literature Compass provides you with suggestions of how and when to use opportunities to make the most of your university experience. You may follow these guidelines or map out your own route.
ACADEMIC SUCCESS

YEAR 1
30 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Should you follow a 3- or 4-year plan? Meet with a career consultant to map out your options.
2. Research scholarships and awards offered by the department of English, film, and theatre.
3. When choosing a minor, take courses that will open opportunities.

YEAR 2
60 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora (3-year option).

YEAR 3
90 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora.

YEAR 4
120 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora.

Note: This resource is meant as a guide to provide suggestions throughout your time at university. Develop a plan and timeline that suits you best. Make intentional choices for your courses and work experiences.

*Please refer to the Academic Calendar for a complete list of program requirements.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

YEAR 3
90 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora.

Start planning your career:
1. Meet with a career consultant to generate career ideas based on your interests, values, personality and skills.
2. Research occupations that match your skills and interests.
3. Set up a careerCONNECT account to view job postings and register for workshops and events.
4. Register for the Co-Curricular Record (CCR), an official record of university-approved activities.

Make professional connections:
1. Join the Career Mentor Program to learn from professionals.
2. Attend career fairs to connect with employers.
3. Become a student affiliate with a professional organization such as Creative Manitoba.
4. Develop professional connections with professors by applying for an Undergraduate Research Award.
5. Market your skills: Develop your resume and cover letter and refine your interview skills.

Investigate your career options:
1. Look at sample job postings to ensure you have the qualifications upon graduation.
2. Develop employability and essential skills sought by employers.
3. Create a LinkedIn profile to network with professionals.
4. Explore supports available to entrepreneurs for business planning such as the Business Start Program.

Consider continuing your studies: Check out the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Extended Education or other academic institutions.

CAREER TIPS

YEAR 4
120 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora.

Start job search 9 months in advance:
Contact Career Services to refine your job search and self-marketing strategies. You can visit the office up to 6 months after graduation.
If you are continuing on to graduate school:
Finalize your application materials and take required tests. Use the awards database to search for funding and awards to help finance your continuing education. Contact your department to find out how their award deadlines are advertised.

Ensure you have references in place: Ask your professor for a reference or a letter of recommendation if you’re applying for graduate school.
Assess your resume: Identify any gaps in experience and fill them through volunteering, work placements or internships such as the Post-Secondary Recruitment Program.

Prepare to work in a multicultural environment: Visit Canada’s National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on campus or register for a Workplace Cultural Competence Workshop through Extended Education.

SAMPLE CAREERS WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Author
Archivist Assistant
Biographer
Communications Officer
Community Liaison
Conference/ Event Planner
Copywriter/Digital Copywriter
Culture and Media Specialist
Editor/Digital Editor
Employment Counsellor
Literary Agent
Policy Analyst
Proofreader
Public Affairs Officer
Publisher
Publicity Assistant
Social Media Strategist
Speech Writer
Technical Writer
Video Game Writer
Volunteer Coordinator
Web Content Writer

OPTIONS REQUIRING OTHER EDUCATION

Adult EAL Instructor
Archivist/Digital Archivist
Journalist
Lawyer
Librarian
Public Relations Specialist
Teacher
Translator
University Professor

Volunteer & Work Experience

YEAR 1
30 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Know the requirements for your degree. Meet with an academic advisor to help you plan your program.
2. Contact the Academic Learning Centre to meet with a writing tutor or visit the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture to see the Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence for help with your creative writing.

Link experiences to your career interests.

Options include:
1. Student groups including the English, Film, and Theatre Students Association and Arts Student Body Council.
2. Join the University of Manitoba Volunteer Program to volunteer for events on campus.
3. Student work opportunities including Work-Study, STEP Services or Federal Student Work Experience Program.
4. Experiential-education opportunities such as Alternative Reading Week Winnipeg.

Explore student research opportunities: Apply for an Undergraduate Research Award and inquire about research assistant positions.

Gain practical experience by volunteering: Check out the Language Partner Program, Student Accessibility Services or the Volunteering in Public Service (VPS) program.

Find opportunities to market yourself: Become a Faculty of Arts Student Ambassador or join the Student Leadership Development Program.

Develop global career skills and expand intercultural learning: Consider an international student exchange or service-learning program, Students Without Borders internship, My World Abroad or SWAP for a “working holiday”.

Staying local: Check out Reading Buddies or one of the other local service-learning programs. Consider learning a new language and culture through the Volunteer Language Exchange Program.

YEAR 2
60 CREDITS

Course requirements: Refer to the Academic Calendar for course requirements in your program.

To do this year:
1. Should you follow a 3- or 4-year plan? Meet with a career consultant to map out your options.
2. Research scholarships and awards offered by the department of English, film, and theatre.
3. When choosing a minor, take courses that will open opportunities.

Explore new opportunities:

One 4-year plan:

1. ENGL 1200 or 1300 or both ENGL 1400 and 1340
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor
3. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
4. Join the University of Manitoba Volunteer Program to volunteer for events on campus.
5. Student work opportunities including Work-Study, STEP Services or Federal Student Work Experience Program.
6. Experiential-education opportunities such as Alternative Reading Week Winnipeg.

One 3-year plan:

1. ENGL 1200 or 1300 or both ENGL 1400 and 1340
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor
3. Meet with a department advisor for honours program approval.
4. Join the University of Manitoba Volunteer Program to volunteer for events on campus.
5. Student work opportunities including Work-Study, STEP Services or Federal Student Work Experience Program.
6. Experiential-education opportunities such as Alternative Reading Week Winnipeg.

CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES