English Teaching programs are intended to prepare you to teach English at the secondary level. They orient you to English language and literature as a whole, focusing on the structure and history of the English language and on various forms of literature such as essay, prose, and poetry. English programs focus on the principles of English vocabulary, grammar, morphology, syntax and semantics, and techniques of selecting, developing, arranging, combining and expressing ideas in appropriate written forms. In addition to being prepared to teach, graduates from this major may find work in journalism, publishing, business, government, entertainment, or other fields which require excellent writing ability. This major also provides excellent preparation for advanced degrees in the fields of law and education.

Programs at Montana State University: prepares students wishing to specialize in the study of literature, language, and composition as preparation for certification for secondary school teaching. The program encourages students in the pleasures of rigorous, thoughtful reading, writing, and thinking. Students will gain knowledge of literature from various cultures and eras, especially British and American literatures, both canonical and emergent; demonstrate an understanding of critical approaches to the study of literature; and become aware of the relationship between culture and literary studies.

A graduate degree may be necessary to teach in higher education, or to be a career or guidance counselor. Graduate degrees may increase your chances for being hired and promoted.

Characteristics associated with success include a strong interest in the uses of the English language and in literature in all forms and a sensitivity to the sound and texture of the written word; a desire to teach; an ability to speak and write clearly; an interest in the language and in literature of all kinds of presentation, both written and spoken; and the ability to handle criticism of your own work by your peers.

You should:

- be able to work well with others
- be interested in working with adolescents
- have good organizational skills
- be motivated to help others succeed
- have excellent communication skills
- be a leader
- have a pleasant, positive, persuasive, and friendly personality
- be sensitive to the differences in and needs of others
- be able to communicate effectively with persons of differing ages, personalities, learning styles, and intellectual capacities
- be able to organize and maintain accurate records
- have leadership potential

Occupations in this field require ability to: hear, understand and articulate language and communication patterns, communicate well orally and in writing, motivate students, continue education and to stay up-to-date on current issues related to the field.

Related occupations include:

- Advertising Copywriter
- College/University Faculty
- Columnist
- Librarian
- Library Assistant
- Library Technician
- Proofreader
- Public Relations Specialist
- Radio/TV Program Writer
- Reporter/Journalist
- Secretary
- Critic (Book/Theater)
- Dramatist (Playwright)
- Editor
- Career Technician
- Technical Writer
- Writer/Author
- Teacher (Elementary)
MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

Bank Teller—Wells Fargo
Delivery Driver—Stageline Pizza
Financial Director—Telecommunications Contracting Services, Inc.
Language Arts Teacher—Natrona County School Dist. #1
Librarian—Vancouver School District; Belgrade Schools
Leasing Agent—Epic Management
Library Media Teacher—Sequoia High School
Publication Assistant—Montana State University
Sales Associate—Patagonia Outlet
Server—Gallatin River Lodge
Special Education Aide—Bozeman Public Schools
Substitute Teacher—Holly Sugar Company; Bozeman Public Schools
Teacher—Anchorage School District; Billings School District 2; Carson City School District; Nampa School District #13;
   Susquehanna Community School District; Highline School District; Platte County School District #1; Shelby Public Schools;
   Hayward Unified Schools; Cut Bank High School; Kealakehe; Helena School District; Yellowstone Development Incorporated;
   Sullivan Middle School; Bozeman Public Schools; Belgrade School District; Custard County School District #15; High Island
   Independent School District; Los Angeles Unified School District
Technical Writer—RightNow Technologies, Inc
Therapeutic Field Counselor—Stone Mountain School

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)
2007: MT: $31,375 (4)  Out of State: $38,400 (3)
2006: MT: Insufficient Data  Out of State: Insufficient Data
2005: MT: $19,450 (2)  Out of State: $22,450 (3)
2004: MT: $26,184 (5)  Out of State: Insufficient Data

Licensure and Certification:
Individuals wishing to teach will need state certification.

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:
Montana State University

Other Sources of Information:
The National Council of Teachers of English: www.ncte.org  American College Personnel Association: www.acpa.nche.edu
Public Relations Society of America: www.prsa.org  Montana Office of Public Instruction: www.opi.state.mt.us
The International TEFL Corporation (teaching English abroad): www.teflcorp.com
Department of English—Montana State University: www1.english.montana.edu/

For more information contact:
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125 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers/

1University of Oregon. 2007. Created by intoCareers, a unit of the University of Oregon. Montana information Montana Career Information System.
Discover: 2008 by ACT, Inc.
2 Montana State University Career & Internship Services
3 Montana State University Department of English
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2004: 12/8; 2005: 15/7; 2006:10/3; 2007: 13/9