English Literature programs are intended to orient you to English language and literature as a whole. You will learn about the structure and history of the English language and about 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. 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: prepare students to become skilled readers and writers through the study of language and literature. 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.

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; 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:

- Enjoy reading and writing
- Have an interest in all forms of literature
- Be interested in learning

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)
- Teacher (Secondary)
- Screen Writer
- Continuity Director
- Interpreter
- Translator
- Audiovisual Production Specialist
- Caption Writer
MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

Administrative Assistant – Turning Winds Academic Institute; Montana State University; State of MT - Criminal Justice
Assistant Recreation Manager – Hawks Kay Resort
Associate – Wal-Mart
Carpenter – Gary Horn Construction
Cook – La Parilla
Corporate Communication Assistant – RightNow Technologies
Customer Service Rep – Billings Gazette
Deputy Clerk of Court – Montana Water Court
Development Assistant – Benefis Healthcare
ESL Instructor – Bilkent University School of English Language; Leipzig; YeonSei Language School
Executive Officer – Army
Elementary Teacher – U.S. Army
English Teacher – Colegia Latino; Froid School District
Free Style Ski Coach – Bridger Ski Foundation
Intern – Break the Cycle
Interpreter/Translator – Vinnell Arabia
Journalist – Bozeman Daily Chronicle
Newspaper Reporter – Cutbank Pioneer Press
Office Manager – Dr. Christi Gilbert, D.P.M, P.A.
Library Technician – Montana State University
Lobby Clerk – Albertson’s
Maintenance – Resurrection Catholic Parish
Manager – Great Western Insulation; Vanns
Marketing and Sales Associate – YahooOperations
Paralegal – Kelley & Canterbury, LLC
Phlebotomist - Quest Diagnostics
Preschool Teacher – Vail Child care
Process Assistant/Technical Writer – Big Sky Laser Technologies, Inc.
Production – Wheat Montana
Production Intern – Alpinist
Program Technician – Montana Farm Service Agency
Retail Manager – Petersons
Sales Associate – Barrel Mountaineering; Wal-Mart;
The Robinette Company
Spa and Fitness Trainer – Bozeman Hot Springs
Special Education Teacher – Sullivan School District
Technical Editor – Prowess Consulting, LLC
Training and Document Specialist – Northrop Grumman
Travel Counselor – Montana Travel
Traveling Night Auditor – Xanterra Parks & Resorts

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)
2005: MT: $21,502 (4) Out of State: $26,352 (2)

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

Diablo Valley College University of Idaho Temple University
Montana State University Regis University University of North Carolina

Other Sources of Information:

American Society of Newspapers Editors: www.asne.org
American College Personnel Association: www.acpa.nche.edu
Printing Industries of America: www.gain.net
National Newspaper Association: www.nna.org
Public Relations Society of America: www.prsa.org
Department of English—Montana State University: www1.english.montana.edu/

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

2 Montana State University Department of English
3 Montana State University Career & Internship Services