



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN ENGLISH MINOR?

“I look at a minor as the wonderful side dish to the main entrée.

A major is perfectly suitable on its own, but when combined with a minor, it just adds a little bit of flavor that makes it stand out. I know that as someone who reviews job applications, I look at both the majors and the minors listed, because sometimes the minor offers the skill sets I’m looking for more than the major does.”

—Rachel Tomcak, Assistant Director, College of Arts & Sciences Advising

ALEXANDRA HODGES

Donor Information Strategist

I knew I wanted to continue school, and so I chose a degree and a minor that I thought would give me an excellent foundation in communications, literature, and semantics. I continued on to get my MA in English Education and Education Policy at UCL Institute of Education in London. Now, I am due to begin a teaching fellowship at Johns Hopkins University to get my MSc. in Education, with a specialization in Literacy and Reading. I am working to become a specialist in Education and Literacy, and the foundational skills I acquired with my minor in English are very important for a career in teaching, advocacy, and politics. My current job, which is as a Donor Information Strategist for an education-advocacy non-profit, requires extensive presentation of information, both written and visual, as well as constant communication with donors and the media. I always call upon the skills I acquired with my English minor while I’m working, be it in the form of interpreting communications, copy-editing, or creating new material. It is a very versatile minor!

TANISHA WALLS

Pharmacy Technician

I am currently a pharmacy technician at Nebraska Medicine in one of the outpatient pharmacies. One key thing that my minor has helped me with is communication. In any work setting that I have ever been in, this will make or break your career. Aside from the many emails that I must compose daily between colleagues both within and beyond my department, I have been a forerunner in preparing our department for a major computer system overhaul. During my first year, our pharmacies switched to a brand new medication-filling system, meaning all computer-based processes were to be completely different. To help with the chaos of that switch, I created numerous pages of training literature for our pharmacies, helping to fine-tune the processes in a way that was understandable. After the changeover, I have also been a major player in training “in the field,” which means that not only are my writing skills needed, but my verbal ones are as well. Having more words, phrases and sayings at my disposal helps ensure that my coworkers will understand not only the process, but why the process exists, and thus its importance.

THOMAS DOERR

Software Engineer

I am currently developing a cloud geographic processing platform for Trimble Navigation in Colorado. When I first started in the software industry with Union Pacific in Omaha, the composition skills I acquired in the UNO English program were a great advantage when dealing with intricate, government-mandated software requirements. In an industry where writing skills are both vital and often overlooked, I’ve always had a leg up with my English background.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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