Make English Work for You: Getting the Most Out of the English Major and Minor

Keep in Touch

- Advisement
  - When to Seek out Advising
  - Preparing for Advising Appointments
  - Scheduling Appointments
  - Using MyNevada to Check on Requirements, Status, etc.
- Subscribe to the English Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- English Dept Web Page
  - Course Descriptions for Next Semester
  - Creative Writing Workshop Applications
  - Worksheets and Forms

Be Aware of the Structure of the Major/Minor

- Foundation Courses
- Things to be Aware of for the Different Areas:
  - Literature: take 311/312 early
  - Writing: Creative Writing Workshop protocol; 400A can be retaken once
  - Linguistics: A lot of required courses; substitutions possible if the course is not offered
  - Secondary Teaching: double major in COE needed for teacher certification

Succeed as a student

- Make your courses your #1 priority
- Go to office hours for specific help with essays, etc.
- Stand out in classes: participate, be consistent, stay after class to discuss key ideas
- Ask for help when you need it: from pros, writing center, DRC, etc.
- Save graded papers so pros can refer to them when writing recommendation letters
- Determine which faculty are continuing; if you are taking a course with someone who is temporary, be sure to ask him/her for a letter/contact info before they leave Reno
- Keep track of Career Studio events and job fairs by reading CLA and other newsletters

Get Involved in English Outside the Classroom

- Clubs: participate/set up a new one
- Readings and Events
• English Works Workshops
• Contests

Career Preparation
• Plan ahead: devise 1-3 career possibilities and look into them well before you graduate
• Cultivate relationships with 2-3 professors who can write you letters
• Volunteer work/internships: how to find out about existing ones
• Devise your own volunteer internship if nothing is available
• Attend career fairs and department workshops
• Seek out paying jobs in related areas: on-campus research, web design, library work, etc.
• Resume: keep it updated and think about what would improve it; downplay unrelated jobs (e.g. restaurant, retail, etc.)
• Coursework: include some practical coursework (e.g. Editing and Publishing, Tech Writing) and a complementary minor
• Cultivate contacts: professors, family friends, alumni, others; set up “information interviews” well before graduation to learn about fields you’re interested in and to make contacts
• Consider teaching: NV has a severe teacher shortage, especially in Vegas

Grad/Professional School Preparation
• Cultivate profs who can write you letters, ideally continuing members of the graduate faculty
• Stand out in classes; make sure your profs will remember you fondly
• Seek out volunteer work/internships in your area of projected study; join preprofessional organizations and clubs
• Consider leadership roles in departmental clubs or start a new club
• Apply for scholarships on and off campus to add to your resume
• Write papers/take classes in topics related to your grad/prof school goals (e.g. Law and Lit; Science, Lit and Society, etc.) that you can refer to in your application
• If continuing in English, identity an area of specialization (a genre for creative writing, a period for literature, etc.) that you can refer to in your statement of purpose
• Know that it is typical to submit a 15-20 page paper as a writing sample for grad programs—consider asking a prof for help in expanding a course paper well before you apply
• Seek out help with application materials, esp. statement of purpose
• Get help devising lists of schools to apply to.
• Take advantage of pre-professional advising on campus.