

English Studies students develop sharp analytical thinking and learn to be compelling storytellers and deep researchers who understand different cultures and audiences. Those skills translate across job sectors from entertainment to law, journalism to marketing, even publishing to sales. Students select a concentration in Literature and Cultural Studies, Professional Writing, or Secondary Education Licensure

## HOW TO USE THE ACTION PLAN

Use the Action Plan timeline to explore potential career paths and plan for success during and after your college experience. The Action Plan provides suggestions and a place to start the conversation with your advisor, but every person and every career journey is unique. Customize your own personal action plan using the **My English Studies Action Plan** tool (next page).

Maximize the time you have in college to prepare for your future. What do you want to do after you graduate with an English Studies degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (remember, it's ok if these change as you continue to learn more about yourself and the field!) so you can start working on short-term steps to help you reach those goals or shift directions. Remember, you do not have to do this all on your own, get the support you need from your department and from Student Support Services like **Career Services and Advising (CSA)**.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Reading and Analysis:

Students will be able to extract and construct meaning from textual and non-textual sources.

### Critical Thinking:

Obtain information and explore ideas and contexts before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

### Communication and Presentation:

Use the skills and elements of the written word to effectively analyze, contextualize, and argue about texts and ideas both orally and in written form and be able to take and apply critique of their works.

### Teamwork:

Students will build the skills to be a valuable colleague and department member.

### Literary, Writing, and/or Teaching Knowledge:

Students will demonstrate a mastery of literary history, forms, and culture, writing genres and forms, and/or professional teaching philosophy depending on their concentration.

### Career Management:

Students will be able to identify and articulate skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to further education and career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional growth.

## WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Gain experience in writing, editing and publishing, teaching, archival work, and more
- Discover areas of interest
- Build your professional networks

## ALUMNI STORY ZACHARY HOULE '22

### Professional Writing



During my academic career at Fitchburg State University, I interned at Making Opportunity Count (MOC) as well as EVERSANA ENGAGE. At MOC, I was a Communications Intern that helped with promoting their programs within the community. At EVERSANA ENGAGE, I was a Copywriting Intern and



worked on crafting copy for multiple projects for various clients. These experiences helped me improve my writing and communication skills to give me a foundation to start a career.



## ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS

32%

Education

13%

Media and Communications

9%

Community and Social Services

27%

Business Operations and Administration

## EXAMPLES OF PAST INTERNSHIPS

- Editorial & Marketing intern for Publishing Solutions Group
- Writing & Social Media intern for Prose Media
- Reporter and Editorial Assistant for Worcester Pulse Magazine
- App Development for Elle Magazine
- Editorial Assistant for Peabody Essex Museum

# ENGLISH STUDIES ACTION PLAN

Take a look at the suggested activities in the Action Plan below. You do not need to complete all these tasks, but it is a place to start generating ideas. Think about what you would like to work on now in order to feel well prepared to enter your career field or graduate school upon graduation. Use the blank My Action Plan tool with your advisor to come up with the action items that are priorities for you. Revisit and revise this action plan each semester

## FIRST YEAR

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

## JUNIOR YEAR

## SENIOR YEAR

### ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Take classes that interest and challenge you, particularly when selecting your General Education classes, and reflect on how they align with possible future careers  
Work with your English Studies advisor to identify key goals during and after your time at FSU

Confirm major choice is right for you  
Take gateway courses like Approaches to English Studies, Journalism, Intro to Teaching, and more  
Consider a minor to complement and enrich your English Studies interests

Complete required courses like the literature surveys and professional writing core courses  
Explore advanced courses in your concentration

Go over remaining degree requirements with your advisor and apply for graduation  
Take the English Studies Capstone  
Complete an internship, student teaching, or other pre-professional opportunities

### BUILD EXPERIENCE

Take a career strength/skills assessment  
Consider a part-time job to build your experience  
Activate your Handshake account

Apply to summer jobs/internships that will build relevant experience  
Connect to English Studies alumni to learn about their internship and career paths  
Consider a job on campus as a writing tutor

Pay attention and attend events with employers on campus/career fairs/opportunities to network within your department.  
Search and apply to internships in your career field

Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events/open positions throughout the year  
Apply to jobs, keep track of and follow up with job applications

### JOIN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Join university clubs and organizations in your interest area. Consider the English club or The Point campus newspaper

Attend university and department events and ask questions of alumni and guests  
Consider submitting to Route 2 Literary Magazine

Seek out leadership positions in campus clubs/activities  
Join Sigma Tau Delta  
Seek out opportunities to be a Writing Associate

Consider submitting work to the Fitchburg State Undergraduate Research Conference, the Fitchburg State Creative Writing Showcase

### EXPLORE CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Explore local agencies and organizations of interest

Talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad

Consider volunteering with local agencies like museums/historic sites

Consider participating in a service organization or fellowship after graduation.  
Consider submitting work to the Worcester Poetry Competition, the Central Massachusetts Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference, or the American Literature Association

### PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Familiarize yourself with CSA workshops and services  
Create resume and have it approved by an advisor in CSA Center

Talk to advisor about opportunities within your major for internships/experiential learning  
Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields  
Begin to collect material for a professional portfolio (if applicable)

Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview prep  
Update Handshake profile  
Create LinkedIn account  
Consider graduate schools and decide if it's right for you and your career path

If applicable, take graduate school entrance exams and complete applications  
Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback  
Finalize a professional portfolio (if applicable)