Where do Creative Writing majors go?

According to the 2014 Graduating Student Survey:

- 75% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 50% were employed
  - 25% had secure plans to attend grad school

Here are some examples of organizations that have hired Columbia Creative Writing majors in recent years:

![Company Logos]

What jobs do Creative Writing majors do?

A degree in Creative Writing provides knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of jobs across the career spectrum, including:

- **Writing/Editing**: Creative Writing, Journalism, Freelance Writing, Technical Writing, Science Writing
- **Publishing**: Editing, Advertising, Sales, Circulation, Production, Publicity, Marketing, Promotion
- **Education**: Teaching, Administration, Higher Education Administration, Information/Library Science, Non-classroom Teaching, English as a Second Language (ESL), Research
- **Advertising**: Creative Services, Account Management, Media, Account Planning, Production
- **Public Relations**: Account Coordination, Writing/Editing, Media Relations, Social Media, Account Management, Fundraising, Research
- **Business**: Management, Finance, Sales and Marketing, Consulting, Human Resources, Insurance
- **Law**: Prosecution, Defense, Contractual, Corporate, Nonprofit or Public Interest, Government, Mediation, Lobbying

Use CCE’s **Industry Exploration** webpages to learn more about these, and other fields.
What do employers want?

Most of the skills/qualities sought by employers are transferrable and/or soft skills that students can gain through classes, extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer experiences, or part time jobs including:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can definitely demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Creative Writing majors bring?

According to the Creative Writing department at Columbia, the curriculum helps you to:

- Think critically, objectively, and imaginatively
- Write clearly and effectively across genres and styles
- Develop keen observation and presentation skills
- Create original content and analyze texts for both grammatical and content accuracy
- Work independently and enhance your self-promotion abilities
- Be open to feedback and criticism from peers and authority figures
- Synthesize large amounts of information and draw connections between various sources of information

What if I’m an international student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. Optional Practical Training is a work authorization that allows an international student to work in a job directly related to the student’s major area of study either before or after degree completion. Employer sponsored H1B Visas also have similar strict requirements. Students with more questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.