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PeerSpectives

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Study Abroad: UW-L Beyond Borders

By: Karley Clayton

For a student who yearns for adventure, studying abroad may be the perfect opportunity. There are numerous benefits to learning and living in a different country, whether it is for a couple of weeks, or a full semester. UW-L sends 17% of undergraduates abroad during their academic career--this is higher than the national average of 14%!

Peer Mentor Sam Disrud, from the Office of International Education, says that "Studying in another country is a once in a lifetime experience." According to Disrud, "After college, you have so many other commitments that you have to see to. If studying abroad is something that you are seriously considering, plan to do it now."

Disrud also explained the convenience of going abroad during your undergraduate career; the university will help students secure housing and other essentials needed for living in another country. Likewise, students who choose to study abroad will have UW-L as a contact point if they were to encounter any problems during their time residing in a foreign country.

However, Disrud describes the obstacles that are part of having a study abroad experience. She stated that the programs are "expensive, but worthwhile". It is highly recommended that students who are interested in studying abroad start planning their budget.



Although your financial aid does apply to studying abroad, there are extra costs to consider, such as; plane tickets, excursions, and emergency funds. For students on a tighter budget, Disrud recommends looking into an exchange program where tuition is the same as UW-L. For students trying to save money, there are also additional grants and scholarships available.

The benefit of utilizing the study abroad office on campus is that you will enter your program prepared. There is a mandatory orientation session for all students who are going abroad. During the several hours of orientation, you receive information about preparation for your trip, and have the opportunity to meet and ask specific questions with alumni from your program. Peer Mentor Erik Holznecht, states that "students who have already completed the program are great resources." Holznecht says that alumni are "able to help you so much with things that you may not have even thought about".

Studying abroad has numerous benefits. Not only is it a resume booster, but it also has many intrinsic rewards. It is an excellent opportunity to experience another culture and to take a step out of your comfort zone. In regards to studying abroad, Holznecht says: "It is an experience that will open your eyes."

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Visit us online at:
www.uwlax.edu/advising

How to Get Started:

1. Talk to a peer mentor from 10am-2pm M-F in the Office of International Education in 1209 Centennial Hall.

2. Start budgeting your money.

3. Utilize the website program database on the UW-L Study Abroad webpage to see various destinations.

4. Save general education classes to complete while abroad.

Choose Your Own Adventure

By: Madeline Marquardt

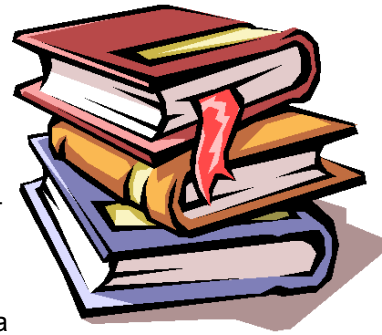
If you are an English major, or if you have ever considered majoring in English, then you have probably asked yourself, "What can I do with my degree?" The typical answer to this question is to teach. According to Montclair State University, only 30% of English majors go on to become teachers. Teaching is only the third highest occupational field that employs individuals with a B.A. in English. According to the College Majors Handbook, the highest occupational field is arts and communication. This is where English majors become employed as artists, broadcast and print journalists, technical writers, communication specialists, and public relations specialists. The second highest occupational field that English majors work in, is the business field as top and mid-level managers, executives and administrators.

UW-L English majors can choose this major along with a Literature emphasis, a Rhetoric and Writing emphasis, or an English Education emphasis. No matter which emphasis a student selects, a major in English is versatile and will provide students with the skills and knowledge to pursue a career in business, art, journalism, or even law to name a few. What makes English majors so marketable and able to work in such a variety of fields are the skills they possess.

According to Arizona State University's website, "English is the most widespread language used in business around the world and is the official language for most or-

ganizations that conduct their business on an international scale. No matter who you talk to in the worlds of business, education, government, or community services, you will find real-world professionals clamoring for employees with solid communication skills."

The first skill English majors will be able to offer future employers is excellent writing skills. A good writer is one of the top ten most marketable skills that job candidates are encouraged to have in order to be competitive in the job market. English majors also have



effective communication skills. Each of the English majors offered at UW-L provides students with critical thinking and public speaking skills required to excel in any career. Many business owners would list effective communication skills as one of the most important skills for candidates in the workplace. Another beneficial skill that English majors learn is critical thinking because they are required to examine and analyze various themes and ideas in texts. Finally, English majors learn how to relate to people from all different back-

grounds because of the diverse texts examined, and the different authors' viewpoints that English majors are required to read and understand.

According to Sharon Jessee, a Professor in the English Department at UW-L, "English majors will be able to recognize and synthesize differing perspectives on society, the environment, and/or human experience as represented in literary texts. Practice the discipline of formulating meaningful questions and apply various modes of inquiry to investigate them. Recognize and value nuance, question assumptions, appreciate a diversity of perspectives, and demonstrate rhetorical self-awareness with the ability to appropriately consider audience in written communications."

The various courses students take as English majors mold them into impressive job candidates for future employers. For example, classes on the study of Rhetoric provide students with the ability to present themselves persuasively and credibly. Courses on linguistics and language teach students about the broad ranges of diversity in a multitude of countries. Technical and professional communication courses provide students with fundamental organization, and presentation skills that better prepare them for a future in any type of workplace environment.

"Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English will provide a versatile and open-ended degree that gives you the freedom to choose your own destiny, and your own destination."

~Madeline Marquardt

Communicating Options: A Breakdown of Four Emphasis Areas in the Communication Studies Major



By Brandon Forcier

Have you ever wondered why people communicate? How about the process behind a conversation? If you answered yes, then maybe majoring in Communication Studies is the right route for you!

The mission statement of the Communication Studies Department summarizes their main objective, “[to] provide students with opportunities to increase their understanding of the communication process and develop communication competences necessary for their personal and professional lives.” Communication is inevitable, no

matter if you are with a friend or with your boss; to communicate effectively is an important tool to possess.

You might be thinking, “What can I do with a Communication Studies degree?” Within the

Communication Studies Department there are four emphasis areas you can pursue during your undergraduate education. The four emphasis areas are: Interpersonal Communication, Organizational and Professional Communication, Advocacy and Communication Criticism, and Broadcast and Digital Media.

Someone would pursue a Communication Studies degree with an emphasis in Interpersonal Communication if they had an interest in: communication in romantic, friendship, and family relationships. Two functions of interpersonal communication include relational development and maintenance, as well as conflict management and deception in relationships. Dr. Dena Huisman, an Interpersonal emphasis professor, describes the main focus as being, “on the relationships people establish with each other as they search for meaningful communication in an increasingly complex world.” Some

graduates have worked in hospitals, clinics, and even school settings. If you want to pursue a graduate degree, many have gone into counseling, social work, and higher education programs.

Organizational and Professional Communication is another emphasis. Dr. Ronda Leahy’s research focuses on this area and describes it as, “[having] the opportunity to study how to communicate in a variety of work related contexts; for example: interviewing, leadership, public relations, group communication, and computer mediated communication.” Communication is arguably the num-

ber one skill employers are seeking when hiring new employees. It is vital for organizational leaders to understand how communication makes up the work place, which is why this emphasis area could be beneficial for anyone pursuing an occupation within the business realm. After earning this degree, many graduates have found jobs in: management, human resources, public relations, marketing, community relations, and sales.

comply specific goals in the public sector,” as stated by Dr. Kate Lavelle, an Advocacy and Communication Criticism professor. Upon completion of the program, students go on to pursue careers in law, politics, or government; some graduates have gone on to work in various areas of Washington D.C. and others work with nonprofit organizations.

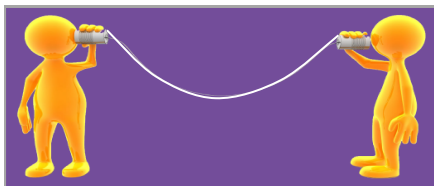
The final emphasis area within the Communication Studies Major is Broadcast and Digital Media . Dr. Pat Turner, a Broadcast and Digital Media professor, defines this emphasis area as, “the study of how people communicate with others through electronic means— primarily radio and television.” With the inclusion of the internet and the constantly changing telecommunication media, it is important to understand the various effects of using those different mediums while communicating. This emphasis area is a rather unique one because it gives students a “hands on” approach in learning how to use the necessary equipment in radio stations, television studios, and even webcast programming. UW-L offers students the opportunities to run their own radio show or contribute in the production of WMCM-TV, which is the all student run TV station. Once the students receive their degree, they could work in a number of job fields, such as: broadcast stations, cable companies, corporate communication facilities, educational stations, and governmental agencies all over the nation.

If any of the emphasis areas have sparked your interest and you want to learn more about the programs, contact the department chair, Linda Dickmeyer!

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Phone: (608) 785-6715
Email: ldickmeyer@uwlax.edu

“Communication is inevitable, no matter if you are with a friend or with your boss; being able to communicate effectively is an extremely beneficial tool to possess.” ~Brandon Forcier

If neither of these options are



appealing, then you might consider a Advocacy and Communication Criticism Emphasis. Students seeking this route would be “focusing on the use of communication as a tool to ac-



Peer Advisor Spotlight: Madeline Marquardt

Year: Junior

Major: English - Rhetoric and Writing, and Political Science

Favorite Things About UW-L: The beautiful surroundings and campus, class sizes, and the closeness of the student body.

Why You Chose To Become A Peer Advisor: I love meeting new people, and have always enjoyed exploring different career and major paths. I also wanted to become more involved on campus.

Future Plans/Aspirations: I hope to pursue a career in the Public Relations, Journalism or Legal field. I also hope to move out of Wisconsin.

Fun Fact About You: My dream job would be to write for BuzzFeed, or be a cast member on Saturday Night Live.



Greener Living Committee

By: Abigail Kirchman

Looking for a way to get involved on campus while making a positive environmental impact? Want to help decrease the carbon footprint on campus by planning programs and raising environmental awareness? Consider joining the Greener Living Committee! All students and staff are welcome to join at any time.

The committee works towards making greener improvements across campus. Some examples include water saving showerheads and light bulbs with lower wattages within the residence halls. The committee is currently working on composing a Stall Seat Journal with the Wellness Resource Center in order to increase

awareness of water and electricity usage, as well as paper, plastic, and glass recycling. Greener Living has planned a Do-It-Yourself Pinterest event for the current fall semester that includes projects with recycled objects to promote the green concept of reusing materials with a purpose.

As brought forth by Professor James Longhurst, bike fixit stations are being supported by Greener Living and are currently in the works to be put on campus for those students who utilize bicycles as a means of transportation. Stated by Professor Longhurst, "Bike fixit stations are permanently installed outdoor repair racks with tools and air pumps, which are weatherproofed and

theft-resistant. Students can repair their own bikes -or even longboards - to help them use sustainable transportation on and off campus." This project has been made possible with the assistance of UW-L students Marina Dvorak co-chair of Students For Sustainability and Green Fund leader Ian Wright.

If interested in anything Greener Living is involved in or have your own ideas, then think about joining the committee. The Greener Living Committee meets every Wednesday at 8:00pm in the Office of Residence Life conference room within Eagle Hall. All are welcome.

