The Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing degree program enables students to develop a set of applied communication skills to pursue a career in writing. The degree program provides expert instruction and hands-on training. Since professional writing skills are needed in most careers, students may also consider dual enrollment in another major. Working with an academic adviser makes it easy to satisfy the requirements for a double major.

Gain Marketable Experience in College
Students will have a myriad of opportunities to gain marketable experiences including involvement with the student literary magazine *Shadows of Birds*; serving as a tutor at the campus Writing Center; meeting experienced professionals through the Guest Speakers Program; writing for the campus news magazine *Berks Beat*; completion of a required internship; and development of a professional portfolio.

Continuing Education
After completing the Professional Writing degree program, students will be well prepared for graduate and professional schools. Some students go on to earn an M.A. or Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition, Journalism, or other writing-related programs, while others pursue a J.D. in Law or an M.F.A. in Creative Writing.

Academic Minors
Enhance your degree with one of the college’s academic minors; the following are recommended for Professional Writing majors.

- Business
- Civic & Community Engagement
- Communication Arts & Sciences
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Global Studies
- Information Sciences & Technology
- Natural Science
- Spanish
- Women’s Studies

Job Titles and Salaries
The following is a list of job titles and salaries, which was compiled from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. This is only a partial list to provide you examples of the kinds of jobs available to graduates with a B.A. in Professional Writing. Some positions require additional experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>2012 Median Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editor</td>
<td>$53,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Analyst/Reporter</td>
<td>$37,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Specialist</td>
<td>$54,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaried Author/Writer</td>
<td>$55,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Writer</td>
<td>$65,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing offers students many specialized writing and editorial experiences, including writing for the student literary magazine *Shadows of Birds*, serving as a tutor at the campus Writing Center, writing for the campus news magazine *Berks Beat*, conducting community-based research projects, and attending lectures by guest speakers from the professional world.

In addition, the required internship offers practical knowledge and experience in specific workplace settings, such as newspaper and magazine publishing companies, radio and television stations, advertising and public relations firms, corporations, and nonprofit agencies. In the program’s capstone course, students develop a polished portfolio of their work and prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications.

**What Will You Study?**

Faculty members in the Professional Writing degree program work closely with students to coordinate their studies and to prepare them for the professional world or graduate study. The program combines a strong liberal arts foundation with practical writing experience. Students will take courses in article writing, business and technical writing, editorial processes, journalism, literature, nonfiction and creative writing, rhetorical theory, writing for digital media, web writing, and writing tutoring.

These courses combine theoretical knowledge with practical writing experience to give students a broad foundation in effective language use. The curriculum exposes students to a wide range of writing situations in order to promote proficiency in composition, research techniques, problem solving, critical thinking, and negotiating workplace contexts. Methods of instruction include workshops, peer conferencing, and collaborative writing.

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**Admission Process**

Applying for degree admission to Penn State Berks is simple. Applications are available on the web at [berks.psu.edu](http://berks.psu.edu). Penn State reviews applications throughout the year. Students can expect a decision within four to six weeks after completing the process. Contact Berks Admissions Office with your questions at 610-396-6060.

**Transfer Students**

Penn State Berks welcomes students who began their education at other institutions. Prospective transfer students are invited to use the online course evaluation guide at [admissions.psu.edu/myadmissions/tas](http://admissions.psu.edu/myadmissions/tas) as a preliminary tool to learn how credits earned at another institution can be transferred to Penn State. Contact the Berks Admissions Office with your transfer questions at 610-396-6060.

**Financial Aid**

Eligibility for all financial aid is determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available on the web at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov). Contact the financial aid coordinator at Berks or check the web at [psu.edu/studentaid](http://psu.edu/studentaid) for a complete description of the types of available student aid and the application process at 610-396-6070.