



# BLUEPRINT EXPERIENCES

## FIRST YEAR

## SECOND YEAR

## THIRD YEAR

## FOURTH YEAR AND BEYOND

## CAREERS

### MILESTONES

- UTRGV has a Writing Center and a Learning Center. Make it a point to visit them!
- Complete your first-year writing courses (1301 and 1302/1305) during your first year.
- Complete 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years. Make sure all credits count toward your degree plan.
- If you entered with credits, start taking courses for your major now.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better throughout your studies.

### ADVICE & SUPPORT

- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you to every session. Make sure each course you take counts toward your degree plan.
- Visit faculty members during office hours to ask questions about class, your concentration for your major, and career options.
- Classes fill up fast. When registration opens, be sure to register on the first day for your group. Get advising done in advance.
- Cold or flu getting you down? We have Student Health Services on campus with free office visits.

### APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

- Follow campus media, and learn about ways that you could use your skills as an English major to communicate with the public.
- Look for a service-learning course. For guidance, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Participate in a campus-sponsored community service project.
- Form study groups with fellow students in your classes.

### GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Read widely in order to learn about the world and about different types of writing.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through My.UTRGV.edu. Update it each semester.
- Attend inclusive and diversity events on campus such as Linguistics Seminars, to be part of UTRGV intellectual life.
- Join a student organization such as Cross-Linguistic Undergraduate Board or Creative Writing Club. Visit VLink ([utrgv.edu/vlink](http://utrgv.edu/vlink)) for options.

### LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

- Create a résumé, and set up your profile on the Handshake icon: ([My.UTRGV.edu](http://My.UTRGV.edu)).
- Make summer plans. Visit the Career Center. Seek out jobs that develop new and marketable skills to add to your résumé.
- Research shows that university students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on Handshake!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger. Locate and attend student workshops or other events.

- Take ENGL 3300 and the English Core courses that fulfill requirements for all English majors.
- After English Core courses, declare your concentration in English, then proceed to fulfill requirements for it. Self-assess about which concentration within the English major works for your professional objectives and future plans.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year (15 each semester) that count to your degree plan.
- Continue to use the Writing Center and Learning Center.

- Talk with English faculty about your future career plans or to decide on a concentration.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out MyMajors!
- When you visit your academic advisor, come ready with course plans and questions. Empower yourself.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with public speaking.
- If you have trouble making your tuition payment, the Financial Aid Office can help.

- Look for ways to add value to your degree by getting experience in writing, communication, and teaching.
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the LeaderShape Institute or the Engaged Scholar Symposium. Plan for how you can be active and add to your resume every semester.
- Find a way that you can give back to your local community.

- Check out a cultural campus or community event such as FESTIBA, HESTEC, and local Book Festivals.
- Join another student organization consider serving on a campus life committee. Visit VLink or Student Government Association (SGA) for more info.
- Attend events on campus and find people who share some of your interests.

- Update your résumé in Handshake every semester. Have it reviewed regularly.
- Visit the Career Center site, and attend a Job Fair. Approach recruiters to discuss internships or hiring trends.
- Consider which minor you might do, such as English as a Second Language or Film Studies.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests. Self-assess your skills.

- Make sure you are taking the exact courses that count for the concentration that you want. Self-evaluate to be certain you are in the appropriate concentration for your skills and goals.
- Aim for a GPA of 3.0 or better, and complete 30 credit hours each year. A GPA of 3.0 is often the minimum needed for graduate admissions.
- Have you already done an internship, acquired research experience, or collaborated on a major project with a public audience? This is the year to make it happen.

- Seek out research opportunities, community projects, and graduate school possibilities by talking with faculty members, mentors within your major, and professionals in the field.
- Check DegreeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year. Make sure Degree Works accurately reflects your degree and your coursework.
- Discuss internships with your advisors and Career Center.
- Look at the résumés of people who have a job you would like.

- Sharpen the writing skills that are crucial for an English major. You might tutor others, write for campus media (Rider, Pulse, UTRGV TV, Radio, etc.), and/or get co-curricular experiences that relate to the kind of job you may want to do in the future.
- Apply to present your research, service learning, or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Submit your writing for publication in *Gallery* and venues beyond UTRGV.
- Consider joining Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and other campus organizations.

- Find a leadership role, a project-organization role, or a meaningful service role within an organization.
- Look into study abroad opportunities at Office for International Programs & Partnerships.
- Continue to read widely and to develop your English major skills in writing, revising, editing, and design.

- Talk with alumni and mentors to get insights about career choices.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks' advance notice and your résumé.
- If you are going to graduate school, make sure you are aware of deadlines. Late applicants are not accepted. Get faculty mentors to review application materials with you in advance.

- "I have a plan for after graduation." If this describes you, great! If not, visit your Faculty Advisor, the Career Center, or your mentors in your major or minor fields.
- Register for your English Capstone Course: ENGL 4390.
- Double-check that you are on track to graduate.
- Continue to use the Writing Center and Learning Center.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school and/or for full-time employment.

- Engage in an independent study project, an academic internship, a collaborative research program to complement your degree.
- Discuss future plans with your faculty mentor or advisor. Include employment, finances, family, and life goals.
- Apply for graduation one semester prior to your anticipated date. Visit the Academic Advising Center often to ensure you are on track.
- Consider what you want to be doing and where you want to be in the future, such as in two years, in five years, and in ten years.

- Submit writing for possible publication. Get feedback on your submissions from peers and from English faculty.
- Apply to present research or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium or at a conference in your field.
- Set up an informational interview with an individual (such as an alumnus) currently in the field you aspire to work in.

- Identify employers of interest and seek them out at job fairs, online, at on-campus information sessions, staffing agencies, and more. The Career Center can help.
- Before a job interview, schedule a mock interview with the Career Center or speech coaching with the Communication Hauser Lab.
- Find a way to give back to your university and community by helping others to achieve like you have succeeded as a UTRGV Vaquero!

- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school and/or an employment offer? If not, network: apply, talk to faculty/Career Center and get on LinkedIn or other sites.
- Create a strategy for life after graduation. Attend career fairs and graduate fairs; apply to fellowships; talk to family.
- Update your contact information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events, and continued access to Career Center services!
- If applicable, do your exit loan counseling on [studentloans.gov](http://studentloans.gov).

- Creative Writing
  - Novels: fiction and nonfiction
  - Poetry, plays, screenplays, and scripts
  - Greeting cards
  - Lyrics/Jingle writing
- Journalism:
  - Writing/Reporting
  - Editing
  - Critique
- Freelance writing
- Technical writing and editing
- Science and medical writing
- Grant and proposal writing
- Software and hardware documentation
- Information technology writing
- Human-computer interface design
- Corporate communications and training
- Mechanical communication

For additional info, visit the Career Center website and check out "What Can I Do With This Major?" [www.utrgv.edu/careercenter](http://www.utrgv.edu/careercenter)