



AVA

ENGLISH & TESOL

ABOUT MY MAJOR

I'm an English & TESOL double major. As an English major, I focus on digging deeper into understanding texts and where specific conceptions of reading come from. From there, I then study how that concept changes through history. Basically, just getting into the nitty gritty of how writing and reading, and English– as a language, and as an art form – represents our culture and our lives.

Majoring in English and TESOL provides a solid background for me – such as having cultural awareness. So, you get that component of interacting with different communities, and all of that is all about understanding other perspectives.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I originally came to UNI thinking that I was going to be a Library Science major. I was going to major in English and then apply to a Library Science graduate program. However, I got involved with the international community my first year here and found that I really enjoyed interacting with them.

As a TESOL major, I am able to explore my interest in engaging with different communities. By adding the TESOL major, I've been given so many travel opportunities, whereas if I hadn't added it as a major, I wouldn't be exploring the world. While editing and publishing isn't the worst route in the world, I'm grateful to have added the extra bit of world exploration and community learning to my education.

SKILLS

I think that you have to be open minded – for any degree I think you should be open minded. But especially if you're talking about specific cultures or discussing texts in depth. Being open-minded is really important to have good fruitful discussions. In addition, I think drive or a passion for what you want to do is super important.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

I have a certificate in Linguistic Studies, which is kind of obvious with TESOL– you're already doing linguistics, so you might as well earn the certificate! I also think that getting a Creative Writing minor pairs really well, because it's a bit more fun. You're taking all these classes about different texts... so adding a Creative Writing minor allows you to then use your own mind to write stories. I think both of those minors pair really well. Otherwise I've seen a lot of people also do TESOL and Anthropology double major if they want to look more into linguistics. Taking that perspective of long-term language shifts and everything which I think is really cool.

INTERNSHIPS

For the past two and a half years I have worked in the Office of International Engagement on campus, which works to support new prospective and incoming international students and scholars. It's just been amazing to see what we're talking about in class being put in place, or being able to use something from class at my job. I've learned to interact with the people around me, which is just so exciting, because you always learn things that you're like “When am I ever going to use this?” Now, I've had the opportunity to welcome these new students and be able to use the information from the classroom to help them.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

I would really love to further my education! I would like to get a PhD either in Student Affairs or English Learning, or even event planning. My thought process behind wanting to earn a PhD is because, in general, I think people within the TESOL major are really geared to working with communities. But I'd also love to keep working with students at the college level, maybe become a director of the program. In the end, I'm not completely sure where my future will take me, or how far I will make it, but that ultimate dream would be to help lead an international program at a collegiate level.