

Skylar Wooden, B.A. English Professional Writing, 2014

By Melissa J. Rush & Max Chambers

Co-founder, Pare and Flourish & Copywriter, Wooden Writes

“My English degree gave me the power to apply my skills to whatever I was curious about. Thanks to the flexible nature of the professional writing program, I had the skills to create my own path.”



Skylar Wooden graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing in 2014. Wooden worked as a technical writer for [KirkpatrickPrice](#) after graduation, then moved to Beauvais, France, to become a language assistant. Working for the French Ministry of Education, she taught students conversational English from 2017-2018.

In 2016, Wooden founded *Pare and Flourish*, a developmental blog that assists young professional women through job material review, resume advice, and networking events. “Our ultimate goal is to create a network of strong, inspirational women who lift each other up and grow together,” said Wooden. In addition to Pare and Flourish, Wooden manages her own copywriting and content development business, [Wooden Writes](#).

Wooden’s English degree was instrumental in her success as a writer and a language assistant. “Both positions I’ve held after WKU relate to my degree 100%,” said Wooden. “The first, a technical writer, was exactly what the professional writing program prepared me to do. Countless lessons and assignments were spent learning to create well-written, well-organized professional documents. The second, a language assistant, allows me to use everything I learned in my English studies to help students strengthen their language skills.” Wooden also uses the strong editing skills built in the Professional Writing program to create website copy, marketing materials, and blog articles at Wooden Writes.

Wooden felt that all her English professors provided valuable insight and practical skills. Dr. Angela Jones’ mentorship was particularly helpful to Wooden. “[Dr. Jones]

has been a great mentor for my studies, work, and community involvement,” said Wooden. “Her expertise and advice still guide me to self-assurance and new opportunities, even four years later. Students in the Professional Writing program are lucky to have such a strong woman to look to.” Dr. Alison Langdon also gave Wooden a deeper appreciation of medieval literature, and Dr. Jane Fife taught her the joy of crafting essays.

Wooden advises current English students to be flexible and creative with their degree. “Never feel like being an English major limits you to any one option. I know English majors who went on to work in tech writing, communications, advertising, college administration, and the list goes on. Second, make the most of your current situation. The university has endless resources. Take time to research the programs at WKU to know what you have access to. You’ll feel silly after graduation if you don’t take advantage while you can.”

