



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

By Melissa Rush

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“My English degree gave me the power to apply my skills to whatever I was curious about. When I graduated, I was open to working in many different fields: writing, teaching, language, and communications. Thanks to the flexible nature of the professional writing program, I had the skills to create my own path.”

It was the choice to move to Bowling Green from Owensboro that led Skylar Wooden to enroll at Western Kentucky University as a transfer student and earn her B.A. in English with an emphasis in professional writing. Upon graduation, Wooden accepted a position as a technical writer for [KirkpatrickPrice, LLC](#). She then began working as a language assistant teaching students conversational English in Beauvais, France for a program managed by the French Ministry of Education. Wooden also found time to develop her own business [Pare and Flourish](#). She and her partner have created a developmental blog to assist 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.”

Wooden regards her degree in English as instrumental in her success as both a writer and a language assistant. “Both positions I’ve held after WKU relate to my degree 100%. 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.” She hopes to build upon her success as a language assistant by entering the field of international education when her current position in Beauvais ends in May.

She had high praise for all of the professors in the English department, but Wooden shared how influential Dr. Jones was on her academic career. “Dr. Angela Jones has impacted my life in a huge way. She has been a great mentor for my studies, work, and community involvement. Her expertise and advice still guide me to self-assurance and new opportunities, even four years later. I could never thank her enough for her impact on my life. Students in the professional writing program are lucky to have such a strong woman to look to.” Wooden also shared the new-found appreciation for medieval literature she learned from Dr. Langdon and the joy of craft essays gained from Dr. Fife.

As someone who offers advice professionally, Wooden had terrific guidance for current students at WKU. “Your degree is flexible, so be creative. 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.”