

were all English majors? We will take a look at the first two examples and see their thoughts on having an English degree.

Successful Actors Who Began as English Majors

Sigourney Weaver always knew that she wanted to be an actress, and yet she studied English at Stanford. Why is that? "Weaver credits her Stanford literature study for the motivation needed to play the role," says Kevin Cool of STANFORD Magazine. All English majors read stories and analyze characters. The study of fictional characters benefits an aspiring actor in two ways: they learn how certain personalities react to others, and they learn how the character they portray in their film/stage production acts around other characters. Cool said, as stated by Weaver, that, "If that character remains meaningful, it's because of what my English major endowed me with". However, why is English important to Weaver as a person? What are the benefits of an English degree?

"A great education," one that is tailored to you specifically, "makes you a contender for life," Weaver says proudly. Education opens up limitless possibilities when compared to someone without an education. When you learn, you become proficient. When you are proficient, you become an expert. When you are an expert, you are given authority. Our very beings have an ambition to do great things and become great people. Weaver recognized that an English degree would be the most beneficial to her intended career, so she pursued it.

Next we will look at David Duchovny. A talented actor, he has earned a B.A., an M.A., and is working on a Ph.D. in English, says Dr. Del Doughty. One would expect an actor to study drama, but not Duchovny. According to Gustaf Molin, an employee of the Internet Movie Database, Duchovny was "a keen poet and writer," in college, and won many awards for his work. One such award was a "college prize by the Academy of American Poets" because of his literary work.

How else has Duchovny's degree helped him in his work? It has been scientifically proven in a study done by the University of Utah that "Brain pathways are made up of interconnected neurons," which means that the more you read something, or see it, or say it, the easier you will remember it. This is because you create pathways in your mind which get deeper and deeper the more they are 'used'. A key part of an actor's job is memorizing passages of script. English majors often memorize poems, passages from literature, etc. These correlate because in each instance the person is developing the same mental skills, even though they are being used in different settings.



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