English and Creative Writing, B.A.

The English and creative writing major enables students to learn the historical and traditional aspects of English literature and its relation to the craft of writing. The major provides the transferable skills important for a liberal arts major, including the ability to think strategically, read complex texts with comprehension, and master writing and speaking skills at an advanced level.

The English and creative writing major introduces students to the wealth of resources associated with the University of Iowa and the Iowa City writing communities. For the past 75 years, the Department of English and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop have been leaders in the area of writing. The M.F.A. offered by the Nonfiction Writing Program and administered by the Department of English has been voted the top M.F.A. program in creative nonfiction in the United States. Likewise, the M.F.A. program in the Writers' Workshop is annually noted as the top graduate program in the country.

The international reputation of writing at Iowa is boosted by synergy across colleges, with the International Writing Program hosting published writers each fall from countries around the world and each spring traveling to other countries, taking Iowa writing on the road. This synergy helps the University and Iowa City draw writers of all ages and nationalities to its writing community. The community is bolstered by the strong readings series offered by the Nonfiction Writing Program, the Writers' Workshop, and Prairie Lights Books, with hundreds of readings archived by the Iowa Digital Library, creating a resource for future writers and scholars.

The status of Iowa City as a UNESCO City of Literature also has enriched the writing community, with people from across the Midwest visiting the city during the annual Book Festival. The new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) offered by the Department of English, “Every Atom: Walt Whitman’s Song of Myself,” and by the International Writing Program’s series called “How Writers Write” have enrolled thousands of students and adult learners, enhancing the reputation of the University of Iowa as the "Writing University." The Summer Writing Festival, Iowa Young Writers Studio, the Certificate in Writing, the Center for the Book, the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and the Iowa Youth Writing Project all help to turn Iowa City into a destination for young writers, who are drawn to the city for its heritage and for its current community of writers.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in English and creative writing requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 42 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. Transfer students must earn at least 30 s.h. work for the major at the University of Iowa.

Students earning a major in English and creative writing may not earn a major in English.

Students pursuing the B.A. in English and creative writing can choose to complete requirements for the publishing track; see “Publishing Track” below for information.

Only courses numbered above 2000 count toward the English and creative writing major. The following courses do not count toward the major:

- CNW:1620 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction 3
- CW:1800 Creative Writing Studio Workshop 3
- Courses numbered ENGL:1000-ENGL:1999
- Courses with the prefix ENNM

The B.A. with a major in English and creative writing requires the following course work.

**Introductory Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:2010</td>
<td>Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:2020</td>
<td>Foundations of Creative Writing: Craft, Practice, Pleasure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Literature Core Courses**

Core courses help students to learn and practice critical reading and analysis, to understand the relation of literature to history and culture, and to introduce students to the context and tradition of literature written in English.

The area and historical periods for English courses are identified under English Courses in this section of the Catalog and in the MyUI Courses descriptions. Since most courses satisfy both an area requirement and a historical period requirement, most students complete these requirements with the same courses.

**Area Requirement**

A minimum of 3 s.h. must be completed from each of the following five areas of English literary study for a minimum total of 15 s.h. of course work.

- American literature and culture
- Literary theory and interdisciplinary studies
- Medieval and early modern literature and culture
- Modern British literature and culture
- Transnational literature and postcolonial studies

**Historical Period Requirement**

A minimum of 3 s.h. from each of the following three historical periods in English literary study (total of 9 s.h.) must be completed.

- Early literature through the 17th century
- 18th/19th-century literature
- 20th/21st-century literature
Diversity Requirement

Multiethnic American Literature and Culture

Students must complete one multiethnic American literature and culture course (at least 3 s.h.) from the following.

ENGL:2460 Black Literature and Politics: Controversies of National Allegiance 3
ENGL:2462 The Look of Blackness: African American Literature and Visual Art 3
ENGL:2463 Topics in African American Literature 3
ENGL:2465 Selected African American Authors 3
ENGL:2475 Topics in Asian American Literature 3
ENGL:3441 Native American Literature 3
ENGL:3444 Literatures of the American Peoples 3
ENGL:3455 Jewish American Literature 3
ENGL:3459 African American Literature Before 1900 3
ENGL:3460 African American Literature After 1900 3
ENGL:3462 African American Drama 3
ENGL:3465 African American Autobiography 3
ENGL:4410 Midwest African American Literature and Culture 3

The following courses may be designated as fulfilling the Multiethnic American Literature and Culture requirement depending on course content, which varies by semester (consult MyUI for semester-specific information):

ENGL:2409 Selected American Authors Before 1900 3
ENGL:2410 Selected American Authors After 1900 3
ENGL:3431 American Novel Since 1945 3

Creative Writing Core Courses

The creative writing core provides courses in a range of literary genres. Students choose a minimum of 9 s.h. in electives and a minimum of 9 s.h. in advanced courses, as listed below.

Creative Writing Electives

The creative writing electives give students flexible choices to focus on fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or other genres of writing, and allow students to experiment across genres. Courses focus on the particulars of craft, tradition, and innovation. Many of the courses are repeatable, enabling students to further develop in a particular writing form. Some of these courses have prerequisites.

Students must select a minimum of 9 s.h. from the following.

CINE:2861 Screenwriting: Short Form 3
CINE:2867 Screenwriting: Long Form 3

Courses numbered CNW:2680-4999
Courses numbered CW:2000-4999

Advanced Requirements

Students must first complete the two introductory courses, ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, and Cultures and ENGL:2020 Foundations of Creative Writing: Craft, Practice, Pleasure before they enroll in advanced courses. Advanced courses give students flexible choices so they can focus on fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or other genres of writing, and provide the opportunity to experiment across genres. Courses focus on the particulars of craft, tradition, and innovation. Most of the advanced courses are repeatable and must have prerequisites.

Students must select a minimum of 9 s.h. in advanced creative writing courses from the following.

ENGL:4020 Honors Thesis Workshop 3
ENGL:4720 Advanced Creative Writing: Special Topics 3
ENGL:4721 Advanced Writers# Seminar: Fiction 3
ENGL:4722 Advanced Writers# Seminar: Poetry 3
ENGL:4723 Advanced Writers# Seminar: Nonfiction 3
ENGL:4724 Advanced Writers’ Seminar: Literary Translation 3
ENGL:4725 Advanced Writers’ Seminar: Playwriting 3
CNW:4631 Advanced Essay Workshop 3
CNW:4635 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing 3
CW:4870 Undergraduate Writers’ Workshop: Fiction arr.
CW:4875 Undergraduate Writers’ Workshop: Poetry arr.
SPAN:4950 Advanced Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish 3
THTR:3310 Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop 1-3

Publishing Track

The world of publishing includes many different careers: editors, designers, agents, even sales representatives. Students who are interested in these careers may wish to pursue the publishing track. By selecting courses carefully, students may complete the track without adding additional semester hours to their total credit required for graduation.

Courses range across print and digital media, exposing students to the history and practice of literary publishing while developing their skills in editing, proofreading, and writing with clarity and purpose. Internships and hands-on class learning offer students the opportunity to produce their own publications and gain practical experience.

Students in the publishing track must complete the following:

Literary Publishing
Both of these (6 s.h.):
CNW:2991  Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing 3
CNW:2992  Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publication 3

Editing, Book Design, or Revision
One of these (3 s.h.):
ENGL:2900  Book Design for Publishing 3
ENGL:3145  The Contemporary Literary Magazine and Editorial Practice 3
CNW:3632  Prose Style 3

History of the Book and the Publishing Industry
One of these (3 s.h.):
ENGL:3140  Literature and the Book 3
ENGL:3142  Topics in Book History 3
ENGL:3180  Topics in Digital Media 3
ENGL:3181  Digital Media and Poetics 3
ENGL:3182  Digital Cultures and Literacies 3
ENGL:4150  Introduction to Book Studies 3

Career Preparation
One of these (1-3 s.h.):
ENGL:2040  English at Work 1
ENGL:4010  Special Project for Undergraduates arr.
CCP:1201  Academic Internship 1-3

Students should consult the department's advisor for information about completing the English and creative writing major with the publishing track.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. They must complete these requirements:

- maintain a University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and an English and creative writing major g.p.a. of at least 3.50;
- complete 6 s.h. of course work in Department of English honors seminars, ENGL:4000 English Honors Seminar—ENGL:4009 Honors Seminar: Medieval and Early Modern Literature, Early Literature/17th Century (3 s.h. each), with a grade of at least A-minus in one enrollment;
- complete a 3 s.h. enrollment in ENGL:4020 Honors Thesis Workshop; and
- successfully complete a thesis in accordance with existing requirements in the English Honors Program. Information on thesis guidelines is available on the English Honors Program website.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the English and creative writing major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University's Four-Year Graduation Plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least six courses in the major, including ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures, ENGL:2020 Foundations of Creative Writing: Craft, Practice, Pleasure, and an approved introduction to creative writing course (consult advisor)

Before the seventh semester begins: at least four more courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least two more courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

English and Creative Writing (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:2020</td>
<td>Foundations of Creative Writing: Craft, Practice, Pleasure</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Diversity and Inclusion 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Historical Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa (required)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNW:2680</td>
<td>The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:2030</td>
<td>Literary Readings Attendance (optional)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
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<td>15-16</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL:2010</td>
<td>Foundation of the English Major; Histories, Literatures, Pleasures 4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major: creative fiction writing course numbered</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CW:2000 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Natural Sciences without a lab</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: Values and Culture</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE: World Languages or elective course 3</td>
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<td>3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Spring
ENGL:4720 Advanced Creative Writing: Special Topics 3
Major: literary theory course numbered ENGL:31XX 3
GE: Natural Sciences with a lab 4
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 2-3
Hours 15-18

Third Year
Fall
Major: American diversity literature course numbered ENGL:24XX or ENGL:34XX 3
Major: writing seminar course numbered ENGL:372X 2-3
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts or elective course 4
GE: Social Sciences 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Hours 15-18

Spring
Major: spring semester study abroad (optional)
Major: transnational/postcolonial literature course numbered ENGL:35XX 3
Major: writing seminar course numbered ENGL:372X 2-3
GE: International and Global Issues 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Elective course 1
Hours 15-18

Fourth Year
Fall
ENGL:2040 English at Work (elective career course) 1
Major: advanced writing or senior capstone project 3
Major: early literature/17th-century literature course 3
Major: elective writing or literature course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 2
Hours 15

Spring
ENGL:4040 Undergraduate Honors Project (or major: advanced writing elective course) 3
Major: British 18th/19th-century literature course numbered ENGL:23XX or ENGL:33XX 3
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts or elective course 4
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Hours 15
Total Hours 120-132

1 General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2 Students who have completed two GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts courses may substitute an elective course.

3 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

4 Major courses can be taken in any order as long as ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures is taken before any 3000-level course.

Career Advancement

The English and creative writing major prepares students for a wide variety of career paths including teaching, medicine, law, graduate school, and jobs in the private and nonprofit sector where writing, organization, research, and communication is highly valued. Within a year of graduation, over 92 percent of Department of English students are employed or in graduate programs.

The department's advisor helps guide students in their career path. The Department of English partners with the Pomerantz Career Center to introduce career development strategies and offer resources to help students find internships and jobs. For more information, students are encouraged to explore Career Planning for English Majors on the Department of English website, or enroll in the 1 s.h. course, ENGL:2040 English at Work.