

English and Creative Writing, BA

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in English and creative writing and thereby enhance their course of study through honors seminars. All those interested in taking honors coursework are welcome to apply to the English Honors Program as soon as they qualify. The process begins with an online application; visit English Honors Programs on the Department of English website.

Students take three honors seminars and must achieve a University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.50.

Each year the department offers between four and six creative writing seminars covering a wide range of genres, modes, and styles. Small and often workshop-oriented, these honors courses are open only to English and creative writing majors who have completed at least 24 s.h. of college-level work. Seminars are limited to 16 students, carry 3 s.h. of credit, and meet three hours each week.

Two of the three honors seminars are chosen from these selective admission courses. Early in the previous semester, those interested apply with a portfolio of their creative work; no minimum GPA is required, and decisions are made in time for preregistration. Successful applicants then register for ENGL:4011 Honors Seminar: Creative Writing through ENGL:4014 Honors Seminar in Creative Nonfiction. Students may apply for only one seminar per semester.

The second of the two creative writing seminars may be replaced by ENGL:4030 Undergraduate Honors Project in Creative Writing, a capstone project. For this independent study option, interested students should seek out possible mentors in their junior year.

The third required honors course is a scholarship and criticism seminar chosen from courses numbered ENGL:4001 Honors Seminar: American Literature, 20th/21st Century through ENGL:4009 Honors Seminar: Medieval and Early Modern Literature, Early Literature/17th Century, courses that offer a wide range of subjects, authors, methods, and eras. Limited to 16 students, these courses also carry 3 s.h. of credit, meet three hours each week, and encourage class discussions that are lively and knowledgeable. Substantial reading and research are required and culminate in a 15-20 page essay.

To register for a scholarly seminar, honors students in English and creative writing are encouraged to have a University of Iowa GPA of at least 3.33. They also must have completed at least three courses: ENGL:2010 Foundation of the English Major: Histories, Literatures, Pleasures; ENGL:2020 Foundations of Creative Writing: Craft, Practice, Pleasure; and a third departmental course of their choosing.

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.