Writing

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Undergraduate certificate: writing
Faculty: http://magidcenter.uiowa.edu/certificate/faculty
Web site: http://magidcenter.uiowa.edu/about

The University of Iowa is known nationally and internationally for its writing programs, particularly for its top-ranked Master of Fine Arts programs in creative writing (Iowa Writers' Workshop) and nonfiction writing (Department of English). It also offers a creative writing track for undergraduate English majors and numerous discipline-based programs that emphasize writing. Several of the University's colleges have their own writing centers.

The undergraduate Certificate in Writing enables students in all majors to benefit from the University's wide-ranging writing programs and resources by pursuing a concentration in writing related to their majors, their career goals, or their personal interests.

Writing is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs. The certificate is offered through the Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing and administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Learn more about the University's wealth of writing resources by visiting The Writing University web site, and read about the University's central role in Iowa City's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.

Undergraduate Program of Study
• Certificate in Writing
Certificate in Writing students explore writing and develop their own writing skills in a wide range of genres and for varied purposes, including creative writing (fiction, nonfiction, poetry); writing for the professions, such as the arts, business, journalism, or science; writing for organizations; and writing related to personal interests.

Certificate
The Certificate in Writing requires a minimum of 21 s.h. The certificate program is open to current University of Iowa undergraduate students and to all individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and are not enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in work for the certificate.

Students who complete the certificate develop:
• skills in planning and using strategies to begin writing, overcome obstacles, obtain feedback, revise their work, and present their writing in public venues;
• skills in the craft of writing, such as the ability to write clearly and concisely, control of mechanics and style, and the ability to communicate with particular audiences for specific purposes; and
• competence in discussing writing.

Course work for the certificate includes a minimum of 11 s.h. in core courses, a minimum of 9 s.h. in focused electives, and a minimum of 1 s.h. in a capstone independent study course that results in a project and/or portfolio of work. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. earned for a major, a minor, or another certificate toward the Certificate in Writing.

Certificate students have the opportunity to participate in the Iowa City writing community through activities such as attending readings and lectures; presenting their own work in public; working with professional journals, newspapers, or other publications; and repeated registrations in WRIT:1500 Writing Commons: A Community of Writers.

The Certificate in Writing requires the following work.

CORE COURSES
Students earn a minimum of 11 s.h. in core courses.
All students complete this core course:

WRIT:1500 Writing Commons: A Community of Writers 2 s.h.

Students complete the remaining 9 s.h. in the core requirements, with courses selected from the following lists:

May include one of these:

CNW:3632 Prose Style 3 s.h.
CW:4745 The Sentence: Strategies for Writing 3 s.h.
CW:4760 The Art of Revision: Rewriting Prose for Clarity and Impact 3 s.h.
LING:1003 English Grammar 3 s.h.
LING:3080 History of the English Language 3 s.h.

May include one of these:

CLSA:1740 Writing Strategies: Word Origins and Word Choice 3 s.h.
CLSA:3742 Word Power: Building English Vocabulary 3 s.h.
LING:1030 English Words 3 s.h.

May include this course:

WRIT:1600 Fast Fixes: Improving Your Writing in Six Short Weeks (must be taken three times for 1 s.h. each with different subtitles) 3 s.h.

FOCUSED ELECTIVES
Students earn a total of at least 9 s.h. in focused electives, which they select from courses in at least two of the following categories (maximum of 6 s.h. from any one category).

• Writing for the professions
• Writing and the literary arts
• Writing and the media
• Writing in context
• Student-designated writing-intensive courses

Each focused elective course may be used to fulfill only one certificate requirement, even if the course is listed in more than one category below. Some of these courses have prerequisites and other requirements for registration; students must complete a course's prerequisites and meet...
its registration requirements before they may register for the course.

Writing for the Professions

Art
ARTH:1080 Writing About the Visual Arts 3 s.h.
ARTS:3400 Grant Writing in the Arts 3 s.h.

Book Arts
UICB:2100 Creative Writing for Book Arts 3 s.h.

Business
BUS:3000 Business Communication and Protocol 3 s.h.
BUS:3800 Business Writing 3 s.h.
INTD:3005/CW:3005 Professional and Creative Business Communication 3 s.h.

Business may include one of these:
CNW:3640 Writing for Business and Industry 3 s.h.
ENNM:3640 Writing for Business and Industry for Non-English Majors 3 s.h.

Grant Writing
ARTS:3400 Grant Writing in the Arts 3 s.h.
EALL:4130/MUSM:4150 Introduction to Grant Writing 3 s.h.

Journalism
CNW:2780 The Art and Craft of Writing About Sports 3 s.h.
CNW:2830 The Art and Craft of Immersion Journalism 3 s.h.
JMC:2010 Journalistic Reporting and Writing 4 s.h.
JMC:3405 Depth Reporting and Writing 4 s.h.
JMC:3412 Strategic Communication Writing 4 s.h.
JMC:3415 Writing Across Cultures 4 s.h.
JMC:3470 Narrative Journalism 3 s.h.
SPAN:3020 Journalistic Writing in Spanish 3 s.h.

Literature, Language, and Translation
SPAN:2000 Spanish Language Skills: Writing 3 s.h.
SPAN:3000 Writing Skills for Heritage Speakers 3 s.h.
SPAN:3010 Advanced Spanish Speaking and Writing 3 s.h.
SPAN:3030 Translation Workshop: English to Spanish 3 s.h.
SPAN:3050 Translation Workshop: Spanish to English 3 s.h.
SPAN:3060 Introductory Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish 3 s.h.
SPAN:4950 Advanced Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish 3 s.h.
TRNS:2179/ENGL:2810 Undergraduate Translation Workshop 3 s.h.
TRNS:2499 Undergraduate Translation Seminar 3 s.h.
TRNS:3480/SLAV:3480 Literature and Translation 3 s.h.

Political Science
CNW:2850 The Art and Craft of Writing About Politics 3 s.h.
POLL:3107 Writing in Political Science: Writing for “Science” and for “Politics” 3 s.h.

Sciences
CNW:2730 The Art and Craft of Science Writing 3 s.h.

Undergraduate Research
BUS:3999/ECON:3999 Honors Seminar 1-3 s.h.
BUS:4999 Honors Thesis in Business 3 s.h.
HONR:3400 Honors Writing Workshop 1-3 s.h.

An undergraduate thesis related to any undergraduate discipline

Writing and the Literary Arts

Creative Writing
CW:3003 Writing and Reading Science Fiction 3 s.h.
CW:3107/INTD:3107 Creative Writing for the Health Professions 3 s.h.
CW:3215/INTD:3300 Creative Writing and Popular Culture 3 s.h.
CW:3218/INTD:3200 Creative Writing for New Media 3 s.h.
CW:4751 Creative Writing for the Musician 3 s.h.
CW:4894 Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing 3 s.h.
INTD:3005/CW:3005 Professional and Creative Business Communication 3 s.h.

Creative writing may include one of these:
CW:1800 Creative Writing Studio Workshop 3 s.h.
CW:2100 Creative Writing 3 s.h.

Fiction
CW:2870 Fiction Writing 3 s.h.
CW:3870 Advanced Fiction Writing 3 s.h.
CW:4870 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Fiction 3 s.h.

Nonfiction
CNW:1620 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction 3 s.h.
CNW:2680 The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction 3 s.h.
CNW:2690 The Art and Craft of Writing About Business 3 s.h.
CNW:2700 The Art and Craft of Personal Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:2790 The Art and Craft of Humor Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:2840 The Art and Craft of Travel Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:2850 The Art and Craft of Writing About Politics 3 s.h.
CNW:2910 Writing for Applications and Awards 3 s.h.
CNW:3630 Advanced Nonfiction Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:3662 Graphic Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:4631 Undergraduate Essay Workshop 3 s.h.
CNW:4690 Undergraduate Project in Nonfiction Writing 3 s.h.
ENNM:2100 Nonfiction Writing for Non-English Majors 3 s.h.
ENNM:3633 Personal Writing for Non-English Majors 3 s.h.

**Playwriting**

THTR:2301 Playwriting I 3 s.h.
THTR:3301 Playwriting II 3 s.h.
THTR:3310 Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop 1-3 s.h.
THTR:3403/AFAF:3840 Free-Style Writing: Poetry, Plays, and Performances 3 s.h.
THTR:3421/GWSS:3421 Performing Autobiography 3 s.h.

**Poetry**

CW:2875 Poetry Writing 3 s.h.
CW:4875 Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Poetry arr.

**Writing and the Media**

**Cinema**

CINE:2861 Screenwriting: Short Form 3 s.h.
CINE:2867 Screenwriting: Long Form 3 s.h.
CINE:3877 Screenwriting: Short Form 4 s.h.
CINE:4830 Advanced Screenwriting 4 s.h.
CNW:3661 Film and Writing 3 s.h.
THTR:3320 Writing for Film 3 s.h.

**Other Media**

CL:1019 Media Matters 3 s.h.
CNW:2770 The Art and Craft of Writing for New Media 3 s.h.
CNW:3660 Multimedia Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:3663 Radio and Writing 3 s.h.
CW:3218/INTD:3300 Creative Writing for New Media 3 s.h.
JMC:3600 Topics in Media Production 4 s.h.

**Writing in Context**

Students select from the following courses. They also may select internships, service learning opportunities, or other relevant experiences offered through the Pomerantz Career Center or other University units. All selections, except the courses listed below, must have prior approval of the certificate coordinator in the student's own undergraduate college.

WRIT:3100 Writing with Purpose: Arts Outreach and Reflection with the Iowa Youth Writing Project 3 s.h.
WRIT:3900 Writing: Undergraduate Internship 1-3 s.h.
CNW:2710 The Art and Craft of Food Writing 3 s.h.
CNW:2720 The Art and Craft of Writing About Culture 3 s.h.
CNW:2740 The Art and Craft of Writing about the Environment 3 s.h.
CNW:2760 The Art and Craft of Writing for Social Change 3 s.h.
CNW:2800 The Art and Craft of Writing Across Genres 3 s.h.
CNW:3644 Dublin Writing Workshop 3 s.h.
CW:3107/INTD:3107 Creative Writing for the Health Professions 3 s.h.

**Student-Designated Writing-Intensive Courses**

Students may request permission to count a maximum of 3 s.h. earned in a course of their choice numbered 3000 or above as credit toward the focused elective requirement. They propose a writing-related project that extends the writing focus of their chosen course. They must have the approval of the faculty member teaching the course and the writing certificate advisor.

**CAPSTONE: INDEPENDENT WRITING PROJECT**

Each student must earn at least 1 s.h. in an independent writing project course that serves as a capstone experience and results in a substantial project and/or portfolio of the student’s own writing. Students must have a faculty mentor for the independent writing project and must register for the course. Visit the Frank N. Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing for more information related to registering for the capstone course.

WRIT:4000 Writing: Independent Project 1-3 s.h.

**Courses**

**WRIT:1500 Writing Commons: A Community of Writers**

Varied topics focused on building community and enhancing writing skills through generative exercises, long-form essay and hybrid assignments, workshops, sharing work in public, reading and discussing works of published authors.

**WRIT:1600 Fast Fixes: Improving Your Writing in Six Short Weeks**

Varied topics focused on improving common writing problems or specific aspects of craft.

**WRIT:2600 Science Communication I: Fundamentals of Science Communication**

Bringing science to varied audiences; focus on writing and presenting research story, analogies, connecting with audiences, collaborating with others from science and film/writing disciplines; first of a two-course sequence culminating in a group outreach project and print product.

**WRIT:2601 Science Communication II: Science Outreach and Engagement**

2 s.h.
Bringing science to varied audiences; focus on writing and presenting research story, analogies, connecting with audiences, collaborating with others from science and film/writing disciplines; second of a two-course sequence culminating in a group outreach project and print product. Prerequisites: WRIT:2600.

WRIT:3100 Writing with Purpose: Arts Outreach and Reflection with the Iowa Youth Writing Project
Service-learning course offered in coordination with Iowa Youth Writing Project (IYWP); students create lesson plans, lead creative writing workshops in area schools and after-school programs, and collaborate to publish a final chapbook of writing from their teaching sites; assigned readings on creative writing pedagogy, teaching life, community outreach, social justice; relationships between self and community enhance interdisciplinary perspectives; weekly written reflections on teaching experiences featured on IYWP blog.

WRIT:3101 Writers in the Community 1 s.h.
Experiential, hands-on learning opportunities organized by the Iowa Youth Writing Project; introduction to the community at large; fun and meaningful activities with elementary and junior high school students; designing creative writing lessons, discussion of teaching tips and tricks, leading creative writing workshops for children in the Iowa City community, writing reflective essays about experiences; for those interested in education, creative writing, volunteerism, nonprofit work, or community engagement.

WRIT:3200 Writing for the Earth and Environmental Sciences 1-3 s.h.
Practical methods of content creation across curriculum; effective communication to lay and academic audiences; methods of planning, drafting, revising, and editing everything from general articles of interest to scientific papers. Same as EES:3040.

WRIT:3900 Writing: Undergraduate Internship 1-3 s.h.
Professional and/or creative experience; students arrange faculty-approved internship. Requirements: undergraduate standing and minimum of 24 s.h. of course work with at least 12 s.h. in University of Iowa courses.

WRIT:4000 Writing: Independent Project 1-3 s.h.
Completion of writing capstone requirement for the Certificate in Writing. Requirements: junior or higher standing.

WRIT:4100 Iowa Youth Writing Project Mentorship Practicum 1-3 s.h.
Mentor new volunteers on a weekly basis at Iowa Youth Writing Project (IYWP) program sites; work one-on-one with volunteers, write and review lesson plans, provide resources and feedback for volunteers, lead workshops for children. Requirements: WRIT:3100 or completion of Iowa Youth Writing Project internship.