

Writing, Certificate

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Certificate in Writing develop:

- 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;
- skills in planning and using strategies to begin writing, overcome obstacles, obtain feedback, revise their work, and present their writing in public venues; and
- competence in discussing writing.

Requirements

The undergraduate Certificate in Writing requires a minimum of 19 s.h. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in work for the certificate.

The certificate may be earned by any student admitted to the University of Iowa who is not enrolled in a UI graduate or professional degree program. Undergraduate to Graduate (U2G) students may earn the certificate when the undergraduate classification is primary.

Certificate students explore 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.

The Certificate in Writing is also available online for students unable to attend classes on campus, including professionals, distance education students, nondegree-seeking students, and international students. Some courses are available online; more online courses are added frequently.

Coursework for the certificate includes a minimum of 9 s.h. in core courses, a minimum of 9 s.h. in focused electives, and a minimum of 1 s.h. in a capstone course. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. earned for a major, a minor, or another certificate toward the certificate in writing. Up to 6 s.h. of transfer credit may be applied to the certificate. For questions regarding the double counting and transfer credit policies, contact the coordinator.

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; and working with professional journals, newspapers, or other publications.

Certificate in Writing students may not earn the BAS degree with the creative writing emphasis.

See the section titled "Professional Track" for information and requirements regarding the literary publishing track for the Certificate in Writing.

The Certificate in Writing requires the following work.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	9
Focused Electives	9
Capstone Course	1

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
WRIT:1500	Writing Commons: A Community of Writers	3
6 s.h. from these:		
WRIT:1003/ LING:1003	English Grammar	3
WRIT:1600	Fast Fixes: Improving Your Writing in Six Short Weeks (to count as a core course, must be taken three times for 1 s.h. each with different topics)	3
WRIT:3080/ LING:3080	History of the English Language	3
WRIT:3632/ CNW:3632/ ENGL:3732	Prose Style	3
WRIT:4745/ CW:4745	The Sentence: Strategies for Writing	3
WRIT:4760/ CW:4760	The Art of Revision: Rewriting Prose for Clarity and Impact	3
The 6 s.h. may include one of these:		
WRIT:1740/ CLSA:1740	Writing Strategies: Word Origins and Word Choice	3
WRIT:3742/ CLSA:3742	Word Power: Building English Vocabulary	3

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) unless completing the literary publishing track (see "Professional Track").

- Writing for the Professions
- Writing and the Literary Arts
- Writing and the Media
- Writing in Context
- Student-Designated Writing-Intensive Course

Each focused elective course may be used to fulfill only one certificate requirement, even if the course is listed in more than one category. 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

Course #	Title	Hours
ARTH:1080	How to Write About Art	3

Business

Course #	Title	Hours
WRIT:3005/ CW:3005/ INTD:3005	Professional and Creative Business Communication	3
WRIT:3526	The Business of Writing	3

BUS:3000	Business Communication and Professionalism	3
BUS:3800	Business Writing	3
CNW:3640	Writing for Business	3
COMM:1816	Business and Professional Communication	3
SRM:3300	Writing for Sport and Recreation Managers	3

Grant/Proposal Writing

Course #	Title	Hours
EALL:4130	Introduction to Grant Writing	3

Journalism

Course #	Title	Hours
CINE:2600	Writing Film Reviews and Criticism	3
CNW:2780	The Art and Craft of Writing About Sports	3
JMC:2010	Reporting and Writing	3
JMC:3410	Magazine Reporting and Writing	3
JMC:3412	Strategic Communication Writing	3
JMC:3413	Sports Writing	3
JMC:3414	Basic Elements of Book Writing	3
JMC:3415	Writing Across Cultures	3
JMC:3460	Arts and Culture Reporting and Writing	3
JMC:3470	Narrative Journalism	3
JMC:3490	Feature Reporting and Writing	3
SPAN:3020/ JMC:3445/LAS:3020	Journalistic Writing in Spanish	3

Literature, Language, and Translation

Course #	Title	Hours
CHIN:3208/ ASIA:3208/ TRNS:3208/ WLLC:3208	Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation	3
JPNS:3201/ TRNS:3201	Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation	3
SPAN:2000	Spanish Language Skills: Writing	4
SPAN:3000	Cultural Narratives for Heritage Speakers	3
SPAN:3010	Advanced Spanish Speaking and Writing	3
SPAN:3030	Translation Workshop: English to Spanish	3
SPAN:3050	Translation Workshop: Spanish to English	3
SPAN:3060	Introductory Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish	3
SPAN:4950	Advanced Workshop on Creative Writing in Spanish	3

TRNS:3179/ CLSA:3979/ ENGL:3850	Undergraduate Translation Workshop	3
TRNS:4480	Literature and Translation	3

Political Science

Course #	Title	Hours
RHET:3560/ PBAF:3560/ POLI:3560/ SJUS:3560	Public Policy and Persuasion	3

Publishing

Course #	Title	Hours
WRIT:2900/ ARTS:2900/ ENGL:2900/ UICB:2900	Book Design for Publishing	3
WRIT:2991/ CNW:2991/ ENGL:2741	Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing	3
WRIT:2992/ CNW:2992/ ENGL:2742	Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publication	3
WRIT:3000	Publishing Practicum: The Iowa Chapbook Prize	3
HONR:2900	Honors Publications: From Pitch to Print (taken two times, first time for 2 s.h. and second time for 1 s.h.)	3

Sciences

Course #	Title	Hours
CNW:2730	The Art and Craft of Science Writing	3
HHP:3900	Writing for Health and Human Physiology	3

Undergraduate Research

Course #	Title	Hours
BUS:1999	Introduction to Research in Business	1
BUS:4999	Honors Thesis in Business	arr.
	An undergraduate thesis or writing-based capstone project related to any undergraduate discipline	1-3

Writing and the Literary Arts

Creative Writing

Course #	Title	Hours
CW:2100	Creative Writing: Foundations for Nonmajors	3
or CW:1800	Creative Writing Studio Workshop	
CW:3002	Writing and Reading Young Adult Fiction	3
CW:3003	Writing and Reading Science Fiction	3
CW:3004	Writing and Reading Fantasy Fiction	3
CW:4894	Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing	arr.

WLLC:1510/ ASIA:1510/ CHIN:1510	Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature	3
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Fiction

Course #	Title	Hours
CW:2870	Fiction Writing	3
CW:3870	Advanced Fiction Writing	3
CW:4870	Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Fiction	arr.
CW:4897	Novel Writing	3

Nonfiction

Course #	Title	Hours
CNW:1620	Introduction to Creative Nonfiction	3
CNW:2680/ ENGL:2730	The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction	3
CNW:2700	The Art and Craft of Personal Writing	3
CNW:2840	The Art and Craft of Travel Writing	3
CNW:3630/ ENGL:3730	Advanced Nonfiction Writing	3
CNW:3633/ ENGL:3733	Personal Writing	3
CNW:4631/ ENGL:4731	Advanced Essay Workshop	3
CNW:4635/ ENGL:4735	Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing	3
CNW:4690	Undergraduate Project in Nonfiction Writing	arr.

Playwriting

Course #	Title	Hours
THTR:2301	Playwriting I	3
THTR:2320	Playwriting in a Global World	3
THTR:3301	Playwriting II	3
THTR:3310	Undergraduate Playwriting Workshop	3
THTR:3421/ GWSS:3421	Performing Autobiography	3

Poetry

Course #	Title	Hours
CW:2875	Poetry Writing	3
CW:3875	Advanced Poetry Writing	3
CW:4875	Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Poetry	arr.

Writing and the Media

TV and Screenwriting

Course #	Title	Hours
CINE:1150	Introduction to Screenwriting for Nonmajors	3
CINE:1300	Foundations of Screenwriting	3
CINE:2600	Writing Film Reviews and Criticism	3
CINE:3361	Intermediate Screenwriting Workshop	3

CINE:3367	Screenwriting: Long Form	3
CINE:4377	Advanced Screenwriting	4
CINE:4378	Advanced Screenwriting II	4
COMM:3077	Writing and Producing Sitcoms	3

CNW:3661/ ENGL:3761	Film and Writing	3
CSI:3325/ THTR:3325	Iowa Writers' Room	3
CSI:4325	Iowa Writers' Room: Advanced Pilot Writing	3
THTR:3320	Writing for Film	3
THTR:6310	Special Topics in Playwriting	3

Other Media

Course #	Title	Hours
CNW:2770	The Art and Craft of Writing for New Media	3
CNW:3660/ ENGL:3760	Multimedia Writing	3
CW:3218/ INTD:3200	Creative Writing for New Media	3
JMC:2020	Multimedia Storytelling	3
JMC:3600	Topics in Designing/ Producing	3
RHET:2070	Persuasive Stories	3

Writing in Context

Course #	Title	Hours
WRIT:2100	Writing and Community Outreach	3
WRIT:2300	Writing Toward Empathy	3
WRIT:3468/ ENGL:3768/ LATS:3468	Writing About Migration and Memory	3
CLSA:3016	Myth Makers of the Classical World	3
CNW:2710	The Art and Craft of Food Writing	3
CNW:2720	The Art and Craft of Writing About Culture	3
CNW:2740	The Art and Craft of Writing about the Environment	3
CNW:2760	The Art and Craft of Writing for Social Change	3
CW:3107/ INTD:3107	Creative Writing for the Health Professions	3
CW:3215/ INTD:3300	Creative Writing and Popular Culture	3
CW:4751	Creative Writing for the Musician	3
EDTL:4355/ CNW:4355	Approaches to Teaching Writing	3
GWSS:3138/ SJUS:3138	Writing to Change the World	3
IWP:3191/ ENGL:3595/ TRNS:3191/ WLLC:3191	International Literature Today	1,3
JMC:2500	Community Media	3
RHET:2350	Forensic Rhetoric	3

RHET:3220	Honors Writing Fellows: Writing Theory and Practice	3
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Student-Designated Writing-Intensive Course

Students may petition to count a course not in the previous lists toward their elective requirements. Petitions must be submitted online and receive prior approval from the Certificate in Writing advisor. Students may also complete WRIT:4000 Independent Capstone Project or WRIT:3900 Writing: Undergraduate Internship.

Students may also request permission to count a maximum of 3 s.h. earned in a non-writing intensive course numbered 3000 or above as credit toward the focused elective requirement. For this option, students must 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 Course

Each student must earn 1 s.h. in a capstone course that serves as a culmination of their Certificate in Writing.

Guided Capstone Portfolio (WRIT:4001, 1 s.h.) is a hybrid course (primarily asynchronous with some scheduled synchronous course meetings) available to both online and on-campus students. This portfolio-based course allows students the chance to direct their own academic, professional, and creative learning experience by asking them to think critically about where they have come from and where they are headed. Students take the guided capstone portfolio course during the semester they plan to complete the writing certificate. In the course, students revise a piece of their writing, generate one new piece of writing, participate in workshops and critiques, and create a digital portfolio of their work (five pieces total). Their final project also includes an essay that reflects on the work created and the skills gained while pursuing the writing certificate.

Professional Track

Literary Publishing

Students considering a career in literary publishing can learn the ins and outs of the industry and gain a competitive edge by enrolling in the literary publishing track. This unique educational experience provides a substantial understanding of the editorial, design, and managerial work essential to this profession.

The literary publishing track, interdisciplinary in scope, is a collaboration with the Nonfiction Writing Program in the Department of English, the School of Art, Art History, and Design, and the University of Iowa Center for the Book.

Students may earn either the Certificate in Writing with the literary publishing track or the Bachelor of Arts in English (publishing track) or the Bachelor of Arts in English and creative writing (publishing track). Students may not earn the publishing track in both the major and in the writing certificate, and credit earned toward the English or English and creative writing publishing track cannot be counted toward the Certificate in Writing literary publishing track. Students may double count a maximum of 6 s.h. earned for another major, minor, or certificate toward the certificate in writing literary publishing track.

Students who enroll in the literary publishing track complete the certificate's core courses (9 s.h.; see "Core Courses")

and capstone (1 s.h.; see "Capstone Course"). They fulfill the focused elective requirement with the following coursework.

Literary Publishing Track Focused Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these:		
WRIT:2991/ CNW:2991/ ENGL:2741	Publishing I: Introduction to Literary Publishing	3
WRIT:2992/ CNW:2992/ ENGL:2742	Publishing II: Advanced Literary Publication	3
One of these:		
WRIT:2900/ ARTS:2900/ ENGL:2900/ UICB:2900	Book Design for Publishing	3
WRIT:3000	Publishing Practicum: The Iowa Chapbook Prize	3

Career Advancement

Recent Certificate in Writing graduates have gone on to work in various fields that are wide-ranging in scope and background. Graduates have found work as teachers, copywriters, editors and publishers, government administrators, freelance journalists, magazine writers, and more. Additionally, graduates often go on to pursue professional programs of study and advanced degrees in law and writing, among other fields. Finally, many recent graduates have found internships during and after their time in the program with publishing companies and magazines across the country.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Writing, Certificate

Course	Title	Hours
Second Year		
Any Semester		
WRIT:1500	Writing Commons: A Community of Writers	3
Certificate: core course (prefix WRIT) ^a		3
Certificate: core course (prefix WRIT) ^a		3
Hours		9
Third Year		
Any Semester		
Certificate: core course (prefix WRIT) ^a		3
Certificate: focused elective ^b		3
Certificate: focused elective ^b		3

Internship: consider applying for internship with the Iowa Youth Writing Project or another organization (not required to earn the certificate but encouraged)

Hours	9
Fourth Year	
Any Semester	
Certificate: focused elective ^b	3
Certificate: capstone project ^c	1 - 3
Hours	4-6
Total Hours	22-24

a Students must complete 9 s.h. of core courses from the list of approved options. See General Catalog for more information.

b 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) unless completing the literary publishing track: Writing for the Professions, Writing and the Literary Arts, Writing and the Media, Writing in Context, and Student-Designated Writing-Intensive Course.

c Students choose from WRIT:4001, WRIT:4000, WRIT:3900, or petition to count an additional 3 s.h. writing course approved as a core or focused elective course as their capstone.