Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing

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Director, Iowa Summer Writing Festival
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Director, Iowa Young Writers’ Studio
- Stephen P. Lovely

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Undergraduate certificate: writing
Faculty: https://magidcenter.uiowa.edu/people
Website: https://magidcenter.uiowa.edu/

The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing takes seriously its mission to offer all undergraduate students at the University of Iowa (regardless of major or area of study) the unique opportunity to enhance their academic, creative, and professional communication skills by focusing on the written word. In addition to sponsoring the Certificate in Writing, the center also publishes the student literary magazines Ink Lit and Earthwords; advises and coordinates the publication of Fools Magazine and Boundless; supports the Iowa Writers Living Learning Community (in association with University Housing and Dining); and is home to the Iowa Youth Writing Project (a nonprofit K-12 literacy outreach endeavor), the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio (a selective summer camp for aspiring high school writers), and the Iowa Summer Writing Festival (a noncredit, open enrollment creative writing program for adult learners).

The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing was established in 2011 through a gift from Marilyn Y. Magid and family, in the name of the late Frank Magid, who believed that writing was a key component of a liberal arts and sciences education and a successful career.

College Program
Certificate in Writing
The Certificate in Writing (offered on campus and online) enables all undergraduate and nondegree-seeking students the opportunity to benefit from the University’s wide-ranging writing programs and resources by pursuing a concentration in writing related to their academic success, career goals, or personal interests.

Precollege Program
Iowa Young Writers’ Studio
Website: https://iowasummerwritingfestival.org
participate in weeklong, two-week, and weekend workshops across the genres, as well as online workshops offered throughout the year. Writers at all levels are welcome.

Participants choose from more than 140 workshops in novel writing, short fiction, hybrid forms, poetry, memoirs, essays, playwriting, screenwriting, travel writing, humor, writing for children, and more. Festival classes are conducted as workshops, where the primary texts are participants’ own creative work.

Weeklong workshops meet for three hours each day, Monday through Friday, and include individual student/instructor conferences. Weeklong sessions feature a daily lecture series on aspects of literary craft, as well as evening readings and other events. Weekend sessions meet for eight hours over two days. Visit the Iowa Summer Writing Festival website for information about workshops, schedules, and registration. Program information for the coming summer is posted in mid-January.

The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing is one of the academic units in the Division of Interdisciplinary Programs. The Certificate in Writing and the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio are administered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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