Creative and Professional Writing

51 credits
Bachelor of Arts

The English Writing major includes concentrations in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and journalism. Students focus on a primary genre, but are encouraged to take courses in all genres.

A wide variety of readings, topics, and writing-workshop based courses are essential to the major and provide the link between critical reading and good writing. This broad approach encourages creative writing and critical thinking while preparing students for the job market. A bi-annual literary magazine and daily online newspaper, as well as off-campus internships in journalism and publishing, offer students practical, hands-on experience. An annual Writers Festival and a monthly reading series provide a vibrant writing community and the opportunity to learn from professional, nationally-acclaimed poets and writers.

Employment:
* Newspaper reporter
* Editorial/column writing
* Editing/proofreading
* Wire services
* On-line publishers
* Promotion
* Subsidiary rights
* Creative writing
* Government agencies
* Labor unions
* Law firms
* Religious organizations
* Special event promotion
* Customer service
* Print production
* Fundraising
* Libraries
* Museums

Introductory Courses

2 courses - 6 credits

Choose 2 of the following courses:

- ENGWT 0410: Introduction to Creative Writing (cross genre course)
- ENGWT 0411: Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction
- ENGWT 0520: Introduction to Fiction Writing
- ENGWT 0530: Introduction to Poetry Writing
- ENGWT 0550: Fundamentals of News Reporting

(Note: Introductory courses are usually offered in the fall and summer sessions. Advanced courses are usually offered in the spring and summer sessions. Students must complete ENGCM 0020 before enrolling in a writing course.)

Writing Courses

6 courses - 18 credits

After completing the introductory courses, students are encouraged to declare a genre (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or journalism) and complete all courses in that genre.

(Note: Introductory courses may not be used to satisfy this requirement.)

- ENGWT 1010: Intermediate Fiction
- ENGWT 1170*: Short Story Workshop
- ENGWT 1175*: Fiction Seminar: Families and Small Towns
- ENGWT 1210*: Poetry Workshop
- ENGWT 1250: Formal Poetry Writing
- ENGWT 1290*: Readings in Contemporary Poetry
- ENGWT 1310*: Newspaper 1
- ENGWT 1331*: Magazine 1
- ENGWT 1380: Pitt-Greensburg Press - The Insider
- ENGWT 1381*: Pitt-Greensburg Press 2 - The Insider
- ENGWT 1390*: Readings in Contemporary Non-Fiction/Nature Writing
- ENGWT 1410*: Topics in Non-Fiction: Memoir/Digital Publishing/Travel Writing
- ENGWT 1900*: Internship (required for majors with journalism emphasis - 12 or more credits in journalism or creative nonfiction)

*This course has a prerequisite

Additional Requirements

4 courses - 12 credits

All students must complete four courses of English Literature electives as part of the major requirements.

Related Area

4 courses - 12 credits

These courses are in an area approved by the student’s Academic Advisor.

English Writing Capstone

1 course - 3 credits

This rigorous, senior-seminar course is taken during the student’s senior year. Students complete a manuscript in their chosen genres and do a public presentation of their work as part of the course requirements.