

CREATIVE WRITING MINOR

The undergraduate creative writing program at UNC–Chapel Hill is — and has long been — one of the best in the country. Its first-rate faculty and students have published widely, won many prizes, and played a major role in shaping the contemporary literature of North Carolina, the South, and the nation.

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must:

- take at least nine hours of their minor "core" requirements at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the minor core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for minor or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

The Creative Writing Program offers a minor in creative writing. The minor requires 15 hours, a total of five courses.

Enrollment in courses beyond the intermediate level is by permission only. Students may declare the minor through Academic Advising.

The Creative Writing Program also gives credit toward the minor for several courses offered in other departments, such as DRAM 231, COMM 330, COMM 433, and MEJO 356. To qualify for a degree with honors or highest honors in creative writing, students must maintain a 3.3 grade point average and meet all requirements both to enter and to complete the senior honors seminar (ENGL 693H and ENGL 694H). Students minoring in creative writing and planning to study abroad must plan carefully so that they meet all submission and deadline requirements for applying to successive courses.

To complete the minor, students will complete five (5) courses from one of the following options:

Combination of Genres:

Code	Title	Hours
Select five (5) courses from any track below and/or from the following list of courses: ¹		15
ENGL 259	Improviseational Comedy Games for Writers	
ENGL 307	Studies in Fiction and Poetry: Stylistics	
ENGL 351	From Manuscript to Press: Writer as Publisher	
ENGL 396	Directed Readings in English or Creative Writing (with approval based on topic)	
ENGL 412	Sketch Comedy Writing	
ENGL 490	Creative Writing: Special Topics	
COMM 330	Introduction to Writing for Film and Television	
COMM 433	Intermediate Screenwriting	
MEJO 356	Feature Writing	
Total Hours		15

Fiction Track:



Code	Title	Hours
Select five (5) courses:		15
ENGL 130	Introduction to Fiction Writing	
or ENGL 132	First-Year Honors: Introduction to Fiction Writing	
ENGL 206	Intermediate Fiction Writing	
ENGL 210	Writing Young Adult Literature	
ENGL 211	Writing Political Fiction	
ENGL 212	Writing Crime and Mystery Fiction	
ENGL 214	Writing Flash Fiction	
ENGL 307	Studies in Fiction and Poetry: Stylistics (with approval based on topic)	
ENGL 406	Advanced Fiction Writing	
ENGL 693H & ENGL 694H	Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part I and Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part II (a yearlong, two-semester senior workshop, which counts as two courses and can lead to graduation with honors or with highest honors in creative writing)	
Total Hours		15

Poetry Track:









Code	Title	Hours
ENGL 131	Introduction to Poetry Writing	3
or ENGL 133H	First-Year Honors: Introduction to Poetry Writing	
Select one of the following courses:		3
ENGL 207	Intermediate Poetry Writing	
ENGL 307	Studies in Fiction and Poetry: Stylistics (with approval based on topic)	
ENGL 407	Advanced Poetry Writing	3
ENGL 693H & ENGL 694H	Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part I and Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part II (a yearlong, two-semester senior workshop, which counts as two courses and can lead to graduation with honors or with highest honors in creative writing)	6
Total Hours		15

Musical/Musical Theater Writing Track:

Code	Title	Hours
Select five (5) courses: ¹		15
ENGL 306	Playwriting	
ENGL 308	Gram-O-Rama: Grammar in Performance	
ENGL 408	Collaboration: Composers and Lyricists	
ENGL 409	Lyrics and Lyricists: A Collaborative Exploration of the Processes of Popular-Song Lyric Writing	
ENGL 490	Creative Writing: Special Topics (with approval based on topic)	
MUSC 166	Introduction to Composition	

MUSC 381	 Inside the Song: Analysis of Songcraft	
DRAM 231	Playwriting I	
DRAM 292	 "Corner of the Sky": The American Musical	
Total Hours		15

Creative Nonfiction Writing Track:

Code	Title	Hours
Select five (5) courses:		15
ENGL 138	 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction ^H	
	or ENGL 283  Life Writing	
ENGL 203	 Memoir Writing	
ENGL 204	 Travel Writing	
ENGL 208	 Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction	
ENGL 404	 Advanced Creative Nonfiction	
ENGL 693H	 Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part I	
ENGL 694H	 Creative Writing Senior Honors Thesis, Part II	
Total Hours		15

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

¹ No more than two (2) courses can be taken outside the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

ENGL 130, ENGL 131, ENGL 132H, ENGL 133H, ENGL 138, ENGL 138H, and ENGL 283, the introductory classes, are prerequisites to other Creative Writing Program classes. ENGL 130, ENGL 131, and ENGL 138 are open for registration by rising sophomores only during spring semester for the following fall and for current sophomores only during fall semester for the following spring. Rising or current sophomores may register for ENGL 130, ENGL 131, or ENGL 138, but not for more than one of these three courses. Demand by sophomores regularly exceeds the number of seats available. Enrollment of juniors and seniors is on a space-available basis by permission of the instructor, and students may inquire of the instructor during the first week of classes to see if seats are available. ENGL 130, ENGL 131, and ENGL 138 are sometimes offered during summer sessions with no registration restrictions. Please always review summer session course listings for any changes or updates.

Advancement to upper level courses in the fiction, poetry, and nonfiction sequences is by application for both the advanced workshops and senior honors seminars. If possible, the student is assigned to a different instructor for each course. Should students' applications be denied, they may choose to finish the minor as a combination of genres with other classes offered in creative writing. Creative writing minors receive priority in all creative writing classes and usually fill all seats.

Transfer Students: Important Information

The requirement for taking a minor in creative writing is five courses or 15 semester hours. Students are limited to one creative writing course per semester. Most junior transfer students have four semesters remaining. Junior transfer students wanting to minor in creative writing must either

1. Have an introductory course already on their record that will transfer to Carolina as credit, e.g., an introductory course in fiction writing

or poetry writing taken previously at a college or university that is transferring in as credit for ENGL 130 or ENGL 131; OR

2. Take an introductory course via UNC–Chapel Hill Summer School prior to their first fall term at Carolina and be promoted to the next level or to another creative writing class (on a space-available basis) in the fall of their junior year.

Permission to move forward with transfer credit for an introductory course requirement (Option 1 above) will require a review by the creative writing faculty of the syllabus and work completed in the course and is dependent on space availability, which cannot be guaranteed. Students must provide hard copies of syllabi and samples of coursework as early as possible in order to ensure time for review and to schedule a meeting with the director.

Note: No more than two creative writing courses from other schools may be counted for credit at UNC–Chapel Hill. At least three of the five courses taken for the minor – courses designated ENGL – must be Creative Writing Program courses taken at Carolina.

Honors in Creative Writing

To qualify for a degree with honors or highest honors in creative writing, students must maintain a 3.3 grade point average and meet all requirements both to enter and to complete the senior honors seminar (ENGL 693H and ENGL 694H).

See the program page here (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/english-major-ba/#opportunities>) for additional special opportunities.

Department Programs

Majors

- English and Comparative Literature Major, B.A. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/english-comparative-major-ba/>)

Minors

- Comparative Literature Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/comparative-literature-minor/>)
- Creative Writing Minor (p. 1)
- English Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/english-minor/>)
- Global Cinema Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/global-cinema-minor/>)
- Latina/o Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/latina-latino-studies-minor/>)
- Medicine, Literature, and Culture Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/medicine-literature-culture-minor/>)
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/medieval-early-modern-studies-minor/>)
- Writing, Editing, and Digital Publishing Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/writing-editing-digital-publishing-minor/>)

Graduate Programs

- Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature (https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/english-comparative-literature/#PhD_English)
- M.A. in English (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/english-comparative-literature/>) with a Concentration in Literature, Medicine, and Culture (https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/english-comparative-literature/#MA_English)

Courses

- Comparative Literature (CMPL) (<https://catalog.unc.edu/courses/cmpl/>)
- English (ENGL) (<https://catalog.unc.edu/courses/engl/>)

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