

## Creative Writing FAQ for Students

1. Who can minor in creative writing?

As opposed to the old creative writing concentration, which was restricted to English majors, the new minor is open to any major within the university. It started in fall 2010.

2. How is the creative writing minor different from the old concentration?

The concentration in creative writing consisted of any four creative writing courses, for a total of 12 credits. The minor consists of six courses for a total of 18 credits. Part of that coursework must include a sequence of beginning, intermediate, and capstone single-genre workshops in either poetry or fiction. Two other creative writing courses, which can be in any genre and at any level, are required in addition to the sequence track. Finally, you must take a literature course in your chosen genre. See the creative writing minor curriculum guide for more details.

3. Can I still concentrate in creative writing?

Starting with the fall 2010 semester, we'll be phasing out the concentration, which means no new concentrators. However, students who declared concentrations before the fall 2010 semester will be allowed to finish their course of study under the old plan. Those who are already declared creative writing concentrators before Fall 2010 can complete their courses of study if they don't choose to minor. All courses under the old concentration count towards the minor.

4. If I'm already a creative writing concentrator, how do I switch to a minor?

You must sign a minor declaration form, downloadable from the English department website, sign it, and bring it to the office.

5. What are the advantages to minoring in creative writing rather than concentrating in it?

Students who minor in creative writing will receive priority over others when registering for creative writing courses. Also, the minor is a far more substantial accomplishment. The capstone projects at the advanced workshop level will represent work that we hope will be of publishable quality.

6. Can I take a single creative writing course rather than minor in it?

Any student can take a 200-level workshop in any genre we offer, but the 300-level and beyond are by departmental approval.

7. How does a beginning workshop differ from an intermediate or an advanced one?

At the beginning level, students learn the basics of craft, with a lot of exercises and guidance. By the intermediate level and beyond, students are expected to be writing more in terms of quantity and quality. The teaching is pitched at a higher level, from techniques to discussion and analysis.

8. If I already have some writing experience, do I have to start with a beginning-level workshop?

We request that all students start at the 200-level unless they have transfer credits. Students wishing to transfer a multi-genre introductory course can count that as a creative writing elective, but we ask that they take ENWR 212 (Beginning Poetry Workshop) or ENWR 213 (Beginning Fiction Workshop) to get experience in a genre.

9. What happened to ENWR 200, the old three-genre workshop?

We stopped offering it as of fall 2010 and are instead channeling students to either ENWR 212, Beginning Poetry Workshop; or ENWR 213, Beginning Fiction Workshop.

10. Can I pursue a genre other than fiction or poetry?

The minor offers electives in creative nonfiction, playwriting, screenwriting, memoir-writing, and other occasional special topics, but only fiction and poetry are currently offered at all three levels. Therefore, students must focus on either poetry or fiction in their creative writing sequence. We encourage students to explore genres other than their main genre through electives.

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**For faculty:** Note that ENWR 212, Beginning Poetry Workshop; and ENWR 213, Beginning Fiction Workshop, are already on the books. But the retitled ENWR 311, ENWR 312, ENWR 411, and ENWR 412, which were supposed to be titled “Intermediate Fiction Workshop,” “Advanced Poetry Workshop,” and so on, have been delayed in their name-changes by the registrar until spring 2011. Until then, the courses remain designated “Writing: Fiction” and “Advanced Writing: Poetry,” and so on.

Students adding courses at the 200-level can simply add courses through WESS. Students taking courses at the intermediate level (300-level) or above must sign up on a waiting list in the English Department main office (DI 468). Admission to these courses is granted by departmental permission, which is usually offered within two weeks after the start of early registration. Typically, registration priority is given to declared minors, concentrators, and those with more seniority. Please do not e-mail an individual instructor for permission to enter a course; the list in the English office is the master list from which students are granted permission.