Students at the University of Chicago pursue creative writing within the larger context of academic study. While the purpose of the program is, above all, to give students a rigorous background in the fundamentals of creative work by providing them with the opportunity to study with established poets and prose writers, it differs from the free-standing creative writing programs at other universities in seeing itself as an integral part of the intellectual life of the University of Chicago, and most particularly in providing opportunities for interdisciplinary work. A playwright working through University Theater under the auspices of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities may take writing workshops in fiction or poetry as part of the process of developing scripts. Students in the visual arts may join forces with writers in work on graphic novels. And students in non-English languages and literatures may find themselves taking not only literature courses but also poetry or fiction writing workshops as part of developing translation projects. It is this commitment to interdisciplinary work, coupled with the program’s insistence on teaching the elements of creative writing that underlie all genres, that accounts for the program’s vitality and explains why creative writing at Chicago is currently the largest initiative in the humanities for the College.

Students can pursue their creative writing interests within the formal requirements of the two interdisciplinary majors below; within the formal requirements of the minor program in English and Creative Writing described below; in other programs of study, with approval to count writing courses toward requirements; or among the eight to eighteen electives available to students across the range of other programs of study.

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities

Students wishing to engage the dialogues between creative writing and other studies in the humanities, including artistic media (e.g., dance, film, theater, visual arts), may apply to explore writing opportunities through one of the options in the Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities (collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/interdisciplinarystudieshumanities) major.

English Language and Literature

Students majoring in English Language and Literature (collegecatalog.uchicago.edu/thecollege/englishlanguageliterature) may choose to produce a creative writing thesis to satisfy part of the requirement for honors. Prior to the end of their third year, students must complete at least two creative writing courses in the genre (poetry, fiction, or nonfiction) of their BA project. At least one must be an advanced course, in which the student has earned a B+ or higher. In Winter Quarter of their fourth year, students will work intensively on their projects in the context of a designated creative writing thesis seminar.

To do a creative writing BA project, students must fill out a declaration form available at the English undergraduate office by the spring of their third year. On
this form they declare their intent to write a creative writing BA project in a specific
genre and list the two creative writing courses in the relevant genre that they have
taken as prerequisites for doing the BA project.

Students work on their project over three quarters. Early in Autumn Quarter of
their fourth year, students will be assigned a graduate student preceptor. In Autumn
Quarter, students will attend a series of colloquia led by their graduate preceptor.
In Winter Quarter, students will continue meeting with their graduate preceptor. In
addition, students must enroll in one of the creative BA project workshops in their
genre. Students are not automatically enrolled in a workshop; they must receive the
consent of the workshop instructor, who will also serve as their faculty adviser for
their creative BA project. These workshops are advanced courses limited to eight
students and will include not only students majoring in English but also those in
Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities (ISHU) and the Master of Arts Program
in the Humanities (http://maph.uchicago.edu) (MAPH) who are producing creative
theses. Students will work closely with their faculty adviser and with their peers
in the workshops and will receive course credit as well as a final grade for the
workshop. Students should be aware that because of the high number of students
wishing to write fiction for their BA projects, students will not necessarily get their
first choice of workshop instructor and faculty adviser.

In consultation with their faculty adviser and graduate preceptor, students revise
and resubmit a near final draft of their creative BA projects by the beginning of the
third week of Spring Quarter. Students submit the final version of their creative BA
project to their preceptor, faculty adviser, and the undergraduate program assistant
by the beginning of the fifth week of Spring Quarter. The project will then be
evaluated by the faculty adviser, graduate preceptor, and director of undergraduate
studies to determine whether the student will be recommended for honors.

MINOR PROGRAM IN ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING

Students who are not English majors may complete a minor in English and
Creative Writing. Such a minor requires six courses plus a portfolio of creative
work. At least two of the required courses must be Creative Writing (CRWR)
courses, with at least one being a Special Topic or Advanced Workshop. Three of
the remaining required courses may be taken in either the Department of English
(ENGL) or Creative Writing Program (CRWR). In addition, students must enroll in
one of the following workshops offered during the Winter Quarter: CRWR 27200
Portfolio Workshop in Fiction, CRWR 27300 Portfolio Workshop in Poetry (CRWR
29300 Thesis/Major Projects: Poetry when a portfolio workshop is not offered), or
CRWR 29400 Thesis/Major Projects: Creative Nonfiction. Finally, students must
submit a portfolio of their work (e.g., a selection of poems, one or two short stories
or chapters from a novel, two or three nonfiction pieces) to the Creative Writing
program coordinator by the end of the fifth week in the quarter in which they plan
to graduate. Students will work with a graduate student preceptor to compile and
refine their final portfolios.

Students who elect the minor program in English and Creative Writing must
meet with the program coordinator for Creative Writing before the end of Spring
Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. Students
choose courses in consultation with the coordinator. The coordinator's approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student's College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser. NOTE: Students completing this minor will not be given enrollment preference for CRWR courses, and they must follow all relevant admission procedures described at the Creative Writing (https://creativewriting.uchicago.edu) website.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be doubly counted with the student's major(s) or with other minors and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades (not P/F), and at least half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR PROGRAM**

Two CRWR courses (at least one being a Special Topics or Advanced Workshop) 200

Three CRWR or ENGL electives 300

One Portfolio/Projects Workshop * 100

A portfolio of the student's work

**Total Units** 600

* CRWR 27200 Portfolio Workshop in Fiction, CRWR 27300 Portfolio Workshop in Poetry, or CRWR 29400 Thesis/Major Projects: Creative Nonfiction

**Sample Plans of Study**

**SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 16500</td>
<td>Shakespeare I: Histories and Comedies</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 10706</td>
<td>Introduction to Fiction</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 26909</td>
<td>The American Novel, 1950–1990</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 27200</td>
<td>Portfolio Workshop in Fiction</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 12014</td>
<td>Special Topics in Fiction: Not Your Native Language</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 10255</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Fiction: CW Track</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A portfolio of the student's work (two short stories)

**Total Units** 600

**SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 10400</td>
<td>Introduction to Poetry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 23100</td>
<td>Advanced Poetry Workshop</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 16500</td>
<td>Shakespeare I: Histories and Comedies</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 26708</td>
<td>Modernist Poetry: Yeats, Eliot, Pound</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 10305</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Poetry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRWR 27300</td>
<td>Portfolio Workshop in Poetry</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A portfolio of the student's work (ten short poems)

**Total Units** 600
PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Creative Writing courses are cross-listed to enable students to apply to courses based on their level of preparation rather than on their level in the degree program. Courses are organized in the following way:

Core
These multi-genre courses are introductions to topics in Creative Writing and satisfy the general education requirement in dramatic, musical, and visual arts in the College. Core classes are generally taught under two headings—"Reading as a Writer" and "Intro to Genres"—and will feature class critiques of students’ creative work. Open to undergraduates only. Fifteen students per class.

Fundamentals
These courses are intended for students who may or may not have writing experience, but are interested in gaining experience in a particular genre. Courses will be focused on the fundamentals of craft and will feature workshops of student writing. Twelve students per class.

Fundamentals: CW Track
These courses are open to all students but will give priority to those who are on track to declare a Creative Writing minor or to complete the Creative BA or MAPH creative writing option. Unlike the normal Fundamentals courses, these courses are not open bid and require submission of a writing sample and the consent of the instructor. Twelve students per class.

Special Topics
These courses are intended for students with some writing experience in a particular genre. They will be intensive seminars on particulars of form, concept, and method, and will feature workshops of student writing. Admission is determined by submission of a writing sample and requires experience in a Fundamentals course in the same genre or instructor consent. See course descriptions for specific submission requirements. Writing samples are due online in advance of the term by the submission deadline. Twelve students per class.

Advanced
These courses are intended for students with substantive writing experience in a particular genre. They are advanced workshops that will focus on class critiques of student writing with accompanying readings from exemplary literary texts. Admission is determined by submission of a writing sample and requires experience in a Fundamentals course in the same genre or instructor consent. See course descriptions for specific submission requirements. Writing samples are due online in advance of the term by the submission deadline. Ten students per class.

Portfolio Workshop
This course is limited to students working on creative portfolios for the Creative Writing minor requirements, with possible room for non-minor students working on an advanced project in a particular genre. It will revolve around workshops
of student writing and also concentrate on the larger form students have chosen for their project. Students must check with their respective departments about the prerequisites and requirements necessary to pursue the Creative Writing minor, and they must get permission to take a Portfolio Workshop. Eight students per class.

Thesis/Major Projects

This course is limited to students working on creative theses for BA and MA requirements, with possible room for non-thesis students working on a major project in a particular genre. It will revolve around workshops of student writing and also concentrate on the larger form students have chosen for their project. Students must check with their respective departments about the prerequisites and requirements necessary to pursue creative theses, and they must get permission to take a thesis seminar. Eight students per class.

Cross-Listed Courses

Courses originated by other departments that include creative writing components are cross listed by Creative Writing (CRWR).

Required Writing Samples

Consent of instructor is typically required to enroll in Creative Writing courses, based on faculty review of student writing samples. For specific sample submission requirements, see course descriptions. Submission deadlines are:

- Autumn Quarter, September 9
- Winter Quarter, November 18
- Spring Quarter, February 24

For more information on Creative Writing courses and opportunities, visit the Creative Writing (https://creativewriting.uchicago.edu) website.

Faculty and Visiting Lecturers

For a current listing of Creative Writing faculty, visit the Creative Writing (https://creativewriting.uchicago.edu/faculty) website.