

# CREATIVE WRITING

(CWRT – B.F.A., 121 Credits)

One of the few such programs in the country, the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing at Penn State Behrend is an intensive and exhaustive course of study in the fine arts of poetry and fiction writing. The curriculum includes basic craft courses and a series of graduated genre workshops that provide close attention to student writing. There are also courses in criticism and theory, and a sequence of literature courses designed to familiarize the student with significant work from both the Modern and Postmodern eras. This coursework is supported by an established reading series that brings to campus writers of national stature to read from their work and meet with students. In addition, students have the opportunity to earn course credit for serving on the editorial staff of Behrend's literary journal, *Lake Effect*, which publishes award-winning writing from across the United States and beyond.

The B.F.A. major culminates in a senior thesis, a two-semester, book-length project that includes original fiction and/or poetry along with a substantive critical preface. Over the course of the year, the thesis student works one-on-one with a mentoring professor. The project concludes with a graduate school-style thesis defense and a public reading.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Although the B.F.A. in Creative Writing is a relatively new program, it has already placed students in Master of Fine Arts programs across the country, including the University of Utah, Bowling Green State University, George Mason University, Ohio State University, Indiana University, Western Michigan University, Eastern Washington University, University of Minnesota, Northern Michigan University, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Georgia College and State University, Savannah College of Art and Design, University of Nevada–Las Vegas, and Wichita State University. Current students and recent graduates have published their work in some of the finest literary journals in the country, like *Epoch*, *The Literary Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Permafrost*, *Carolina Quarterly*, and *Third Coast*. They have won regional, state-wide, and national awards.

The combination of the rigorous curriculum and the opportunity to gain editorial experience working on *Lake Effect* helps to prepare B.F.A. students for a variety of careers in the fields of publishing, editing, education, and professional and organizational writing.

**Program Chair: Dr. Tom Noyes, 814-898-6209, [twn2@psu.edu](mailto:twn2@psu.edu)**  
[behrend.psu.edu/creativewriting](http://behrend.psu.edu/creativewriting)

## GENERAL EDUCATION (45 credits)

### Key to Symbols

\* Students may complete any 9 credits of GN sciences.

\*\* Students may complete any 3 credits of GHA as long as the total equals 3 or more credits.

\*\*\* A student may request an exception in order to establish a focus in one area. For example, a student may opt to take *one* course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, *two* in the Arts, and *three* in the Humanities—referred to as the 3-6-9 sequence.

<b>Writing/Speaking Courses (9 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
ENGL 015 or 030H (GWS)		3
ENGL 202A, B, C or D (GWS)		3
CAS 100A, B, C, or H (GWS)		3
<b>Natural Science Courses (GN)* (9 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		3
		3
		3
<b>Quantification Courses (GQ) (6 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		3
		3
<b>Health and Physical Activity (GHA)** (3 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		1.5
		1.5
<b>Arts Courses (GA)*** (6 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		3
		3
<b>Humanities Courses (GH)*** (6 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		3
		3
<b>Social/Behavioral Courses (GS)*** (6 credits)</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
		3
		3

## Additional Graduation Requirements

### Key to Symbols

\*\* Can also be counted toward General Education or major requirements.

+ Effective for students enrolling in or after summer session 2005.

<b>Course Type: Additional Requirements</b>	<b>Your Courses</b>	<b>Credits</b>
First-Year Seminar (Included in electives or general education)		1
Writing Across the Curriculum in the major (W)**		3
International Cultures (IL)**+		3
United States Cultures (US)**+		3

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR (76 credits)

### PRESCRIBED COURSES: (46 credits)

#### Key to Symbol

\* Students planning to major in creative writing should enroll in this course every semester (typically 8 semesters). A student is required to take this course a minimum of four times.

Courses: Prescribed	Credits
ENGL 006* Creative Writing Common Time	4-8
CMLIT 010 World Literatures	3
ENGL 100 English Language Analysis	3
ENGL 200 Introduction to Critical Reading	3
ENGL 212 Introduction to Fiction Writing	3
ENGL 213 Introduction to Poetry Writing	3
ENGL 312 Globality and Literature	3
ENGL 401W Creative Writing Theory & Practice	3
ENGL 420 Writing for the Web	3
ENGL 433 American Novel 1900-1945	3
ENGL 436 American Fiction Since 1945	3
ENGL 437 The Poet in America	3
ENGL 458 Twentieth Century Poetry	3
ENGL 494 Senior Thesis in English	6

### ADDITIONAL COURSES (24 credits)

Courses: Additional	Your Courses	Credits
ENGL 443 The English Renaissance or ENGL 444 Shakespeare		3
Select 3 courses (9 credits) from the following: ENGL 412 Advanced Fiction Writing ENGL 422 Fiction Workshop ENGL 413 Advanced Poetry Workshop ENGL 423 Poetry Workshop		9
Foreign Language: Students must attain 12 <sup>th</sup> credit level proficiency. This requirement is governed by a placement policy dictated by the number of levels of foreign language completed prior to admission to college.		12

### SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (6 credits)

Students must complete 6 credits of coursework at the 200-level or above in ENGL or CMLIT.

# Creative Writing Scholarships & Awards

With generous support from the Corey N. Farrell, Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith, and Kenneth J. Sonnenberg endowments, Creative Writing students are eligible to compete for several awards, scholarships, and prizes.

Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith Award in Fiction (for first-year and transfer students)

Kenneth J. Sonnenberg Award in Poetry (for first-year and transfer students)

Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith Scholarship (for continuing students)

Corey N. Farrell Scholarship (for continuing students)

Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith Annual Prize in Fiction

Kenneth J. Sonnenberg Annual Prize in Poetry

Corey N. Farrell Annual Prize in Nonfiction

Questions regarding Creative Writing awards, scholarships, and contests can be directed to **Dr. Tom Noyes** at **814-898-6209** or **twn2@psu.edu**

**For a full list of Faculty in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, visit <http://psbehrend.psu.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/faculty-staff-directory>**

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