

CREATIVE WRITING (BA)

Director: Eric L. Gansworth

Introduction

In keeping with the college's Jesuit mission to educate the whole person, the English Department strives to nurture intellectual and spiritual growth through the study of literature and the practice of writing. The department fosters academic excellence through a diverse and rigorous curriculum that serves all students at Canisius.

The department's creative writing major is structured to help students develop their writing skills, as they gain broad exposure to literature in a variety of periods, genres, and modes. In English 294 students explore the fundamental skills of fiction and poetry writing. They learn to read as writers, and become acquainted with the workshop method, which involves close reading and critiques of student manuscripts. In courses numbered 300 and above, they have the opportunity to gain more in-depth practice of a particular genre. Finally, in the senior creative writing capstone students will learn to do all the things working writers do: prepare, submit, and present work consistent with professional standards; understand and articulate how their work fits into larger literary traditions; and read in the manner of professional writers, attentive to textual choices and strategies and their effects on readers. Additional information is available at the Creative Writing website (<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/creative-writing>).

Major Experiences

The Canisius College Contemporary Writers Series brings nationally known writers to meet with Canisius students and to discuss their craft in an informal setting. The Quadrangle is the Canisius journal of literary and visual arts. Students may publish their own pieces or work as editors gaining real-world publishing skills. Internships with local literary publishers and arts organizations provide our students the opportunity to participate in the vibrant Buffalo literary scene and to acquire professional experience as writers, teachers, editors, and administrators.

Qualifications

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in their major and a 2.0 overall average to graduate with a degree in creative writing. Students must earn at least a grade of B in ENG 294 in order to enroll in advanced workshops.

Advisement

All students should have an advisor in the major and should contact the department directly to have an advisor assigned if they do not already have one. Meetings with academic advisors are required prior to students receiving their PIN for course registration each semester. All majors should work closely with their advisor in discussing career expectations, choosing their major electives, developing their entire academic program and planning their co-curricular or supplemental academic experiences.

Double Majors

Students who wish to expand their educational opportunities may decide to declare a double major. The decision may be based on career goals or planned graduate studies. Before a student declares a double major, it is important to meet with the appropriate academic departments for advisement. Some double major combinations can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional course work may be required. In order to declare a double major, the student must complete the appropriate double major request form and get

the signature of each department chairperson and the appropriate associate dean. Please note that students will receive only one degree, regardless of the number of majors they complete.

Minors in Other Disciplines

Minors provide students the opportunity to pursue additional interests but generally do not require as many courses as a major. Minors generally range from five to eight required courses. The minors page (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/minors>) provides a complete list of minors and provides links to each minor. Some majors and minors can be completed within the minimum 120 credit hour degree requirement, but in some cases additional coursework may be required. Students must complete the appropriate minor request form.

Curriculum

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All undergraduate students must complete either the Canisius Core Curriculum (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/core-curriculum>) or the All-College Honors Curriculum (<http://catalog.canisius.edu/undergraduate/academics/curricular-information/all-college-honors-program>). Many schools refer to their college-wide undergraduate requirements as "general education" requirements. We believe that the core curriculum and the honors curriculum are more than a series of required classes; they provide the basis for a Jesuit education both with content and with required knowledge and skills attributes that are central to our mission.

Free Electives

Students may graduate with more but not less than 120 credit hours. Free electives are courses in addition to the Core Curriculum or Honors Curriculum and major requirements sufficient to reach the minimum of 120 credit hours required for graduation.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
ENG 294	Introduction to Creative Writing	3
ENG 299	Introduction to English Studies	3
Contemporary literature: one course		3
British literature: one course		3
American literature: one course		3
ENG 490	Creative Writing Senior Capstone	3
Select three of the following:		9
ENG 342	Writing Young Adult Fiction	
ENG 388	Literary Publishing	
ENG 391	Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction	
ENG 392	Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry	
ENG 393	Advanced Creative Writing: Memoir & Nonfiction	
ENG 411	Playwriting	
ENG 498	Internship	
Additional electives: 3 literature courses approved by program director		9
Total Credits		36

Prerequisites for 200-level and above English courses: FYS 101 and ENG 101, or permission of the department chair. ENG 294 must be taken at Canisius by all students committing to the program. Transfer Creative Writing credit may be used as a Creative Writing Elective. ENG 294 (or permission of the instructor) is a prerequisite for ENG 391, ENG 392, ENG 393 and ENG 490.

For a more detailed description of the program, faculty, facilities, academic and co-curricular opportunities please go to the Creative Writing website. (<http://www.canisius.edu/creative-writing>)

Roadmap

Recommended Semester Schedule for Major Course Requirements

Sophomore

Fall	Spring
ENG 294	Creative Writing elective
ENG 299	American Literature requirement

Junior

Fall	Spring
Creative Writing elective	Creative Writing elective
British Literature requirement	Contemporary Literature requirement

Senior

Fall	Spring
Literature elective	ENG 490
Literature elective	Literature elective

Learning Goals & Objectives

Learning Goal 1

Students will demonstrate the ability to produce a polished, professional-quality portfolio of creative writing and an understanding of how to submit the work for publication.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Draft, revise, and edit a technically accomplished creative manuscript (fiction, poetry, drama, or creative nonfiction).
- **Objective B:** Research literary journals and compile a list of magazines that fit their work.
- **Objective C:** Prepare a submission to a literary magazine: compose a cover letter and prepare a manuscript that conforms to professional conventions in the field.

Learning Goal 2

Students will develop an understanding of their own influences and aesthetic values as writers and how their own work fits into larger literary traditions.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Describe the writers, texts, and movements that influence their work.
- **Objective B:** Articulate their aesthetic values.
- **Objective C:** Outline their own artistic projects: what they aim to accomplish in their work.

Learning Goal 3

Students will demonstrate the ability to perform their work effectively in public.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Make an appropriate selection of their own work for public performance.
- **Objective B:** Introduce themselves and their work to an audience in an engaging way and place their selections in context.
- **Objective C:** Read or recite their work clearly and expressively.

Learning Goal 4

Students will demonstrate the ability to read as writers.

Students will:

- **Objective A:** Be able to identify and explain choices professional writers make in literary texts.
- **Objective B:** Be able to describe the effects of these choices.
- **Objective C:** Be able to discuss how they may interpolate similar choices in the creation of their own work.

Minor

In addition to the major, a creative writing minor is offered: a five-course sequence that includes many of the basic requirements for creative writing majors.

This minor is available to any student (both majors and non-majors).

It is a five course program that provides interested students the opportunity to learn and practice the fundamentals of writing stories, poems, essays and plays. For more information, please visit the Creative Writing website (<https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/creative-writing>).

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ENG 388	Literary Publishing	
ENG 392	Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry	
ENG 411	Playwriting	
ENG 498	Internship	
Total Credits		15