

CREATIVE WRITING, B.F.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Erie

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	2
Requirements for the Major	73

Per Senate Policy 83.80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned.

0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A student enrolled in this major must earn at least a grade of C in each 300- and 400-level course.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
ENGL 6	Creative Writing Common Time ¹	4
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 200	Introduction to Critical Reading	3
ENGL 209	Journal or Magazine Practicum ²	3
ENGL 212	Introduction to Fiction Writing	3
ENGL 213	Introduction to Poetry Writing	3
ENGL 312	Globality and Literature	3
ENGL 494	Senior Thesis in English	6
Additional Courses		
Select 12 credits of a World Language (0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination)		12
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ENGL 401W	Creative Writing Theory	3
or ENGL 482W	Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
CAMS 45	Classical Mythology	
CMLIT 10	Worlds: Literature, Media, and Society	
ENGL 104	The Bible as Literature	

Select 3 credits from the following:		3
APLNG 210	Global English	
ENGL 100	English Language Analysis	
LING 100	Foundations of Linguistics	
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
ENGL 440	Studies in Shakespeare	
ENGL 443	The English Renaissance	
ENGL 444	Shakespeare	
Select 9 credits from the following:		9
ENGL 412	Advanced Fiction Writing	
ENGL 413	Advanced Poetry Writing	
ENGL 422	Fiction Workshop	
ENGL 424	Creative Writing and the Natural World	

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

Select 12 credits in literature courses from a departmental list (at least 6 credits must be at the 400 level) 12

Select 3 credits from courses in professional writing from a departmental list 3

- ¹ Students are required to take ENGL 6 a minimum of four times. Students planning to major in creative writing are encouraged to enroll in this course every semester (typically 8 semesters). Students can take additional credits of ENGL 6 as Supporting Course credits.
- ² Students can take additional credits of ENGL 209 as Supporting Course credits.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.