

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

Program Description

Students in the B.F.A. in Creative Writing major develop their writing skills and artistic vision through craft classes, literature classes, and writing workshops in preparation for a variety of post-graduation options, from continuing on to graduate writing programs to working in the professional fields of publishing, editing, technical writing, and education.

The program recognizes students must read well to write well and must understand the relationship between tradition and individual talent, so literature courses are an integral part of the curriculum. Students also take a sequence of writing workshops, a course in creative writing theory, a publishing practicum, and a course that fosters professional development and features live readings by visiting authors. The program culminates in a two-semester capstone experience, the senior thesis project, for which they compose a collection of original poetry or prose, write a critical preface and an annotated bibliography, offer a public reading, and participate in a graduate school-style thesis defense.

What is Creative Writing?

Creative writing is a liberal arts discipline concerned with the practice of literary art, the life of the imagination, and the capacities of language. Creative writing students analyze masterworks of fiction, poetry, and literary nonfiction from different periods and cultures; compose their own original works; develop editing and communication skills; and explore the world of contemporary publishing.

You Might Like This Program If...

- Your nose is always in a book.
- When you're not reading, you're writing.
- You enjoy the editing and revision process.
- You can see yourself working on the editorial staff of Lake Effect, Penn State Behrend's international literary journal.