CREATIVE WRITING,
DOCTORAL MINOR

The program in creative writing also offers doctoral students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison the chance to incorporate creative writing as part of their course of studies in the form of a minor in creative writing.

ADMISSIONS

Application for admission to the minor consists of submitting to the MFA director, via Ron Kuka (rfkuka@wisc.edu), a writing sample and a one-to two-page, single-spaced personal statement justifying the minor’s relevance to the student’s current or future research and career plans.

Admission to individual workshops is not guaranteed for any student, but is based on evaluation of a writing sample that must be submitted to the instructor by November 1 for spring semester workshops and by April 1 for fall semester workshops. Writing samples should consist of either 10 pages of single-spaced poems, with each new poem beginning on a new page, or up to 30 double-spaced pages of fiction. Admission to the Internal Minor is determined by a committee composed of Creative Writing Program faculty. Admission is based on the quality of the writing sample, performance in the prerequisite workshop, and the personal statement. Ph.D. students admitted into the Internal Minor in Creative Writing are guaranteed admission to either an advanced undergraduate or graduate-level workshops, though admission to all graduate workshops is at the discretion of the instructor. Graduate students enrolled or interested in the Creative Writing Minor are encouraged to consult a member of the Creative Writing Program faculty prior to applying to the Minor and prior to choosing a workshop.

Please note that creative writing classes often appear to be closed even when there is room for additional students. This is done when all or some of the students in a workshop are admitted on the basis of writing samples, and is especially true of graduate-level workshops. If you are interested in a class that appears to be closed, please contact Ron Kuka (rfkuka@wisc.edu) to determine the actual enrollment status.

REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 9 credits of graduate or advanced undergraduate workshops and 3 credits of an elective that is relevant to the student’s work in creative writing (12 credits total).

For Ph.D. students in the Department of English whose major field of study is in the program of Literary Studies, Composition & Rhetoric, or English Language & Linguistics, the elective must be selected in consultation with the department’s director of graduate studies (dgs@english.wisc.edu).

For Ph.D. students from other departments/programs, the elective must be selected in consultation with the student’s academic advisor. Ph.D. students wishing to apply for an Internal or External Minor must have already completed or be currently enrolled in an advanced-level undergraduate or graduate creative writing workshop (the ‘prerequisite workshop’).

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Barry, Johnson, Kercheval, Mitchell, Wallace;
Assistant Professor Evans