

College of Creative Studies

Writing & Literature

Writing & Literature Program Overview

The Writing & Literature students have a genuine passion for reading and writing. Students complete rigorous coursework in Creative Writing, Literary Study, and Writing Studies, with considerable freedom to design their own course of study. Students work closely under the guidance of a faculty mentor to create a publishable body of creative and scholarly work for their senior portfolio.

By integrating these three areas of exploration, students will receive a well-rounded education in writing. Work in Creative Writing will help students develop their voice and gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's publishing environment. The close reading and criticism performed through Literary Study will help students better understand and analyze literature. Experience in Writing Studies invites students to consider the composition, circulation, and purpose of writing in professional, academic, civic, and digital contexts. This interdisciplinary approach to writing will prepare students for a fulfilling writing life as well as a variety of careers, including professional writing, publishing, marketing, or graduate-level study.

Some students receive funding from CCS to support their research or creative activities through the Traveling Undergraduate Research Fund.

Curriculum

The purpose of the Writing & Literature curriculum is to provide students with the grounding and guidance that will allow them to successfully pursue their independent scholarly and creative endeavors.

Freshman and Sophomore colloquia in the three areas of study provide exposure to the forms of inquiry within these related fields and to the cutting edge research of UCSB faculty in these disciplines. Most upper division courses are taken in various College of Letters and Science Departments, such as Comparative Literature, English, Writing, the languages, and ethnic studies.

The latter half of a student's undergraduate career focuses on pursuing an independent project in research, analysis, and/or creative writing, which culminates in the Senior Portfolio.

To find out more about the CCS Writing & Literature Major, please contact Kara Mae Brown (karamae.brown@ccs.ucsb.edu).

Major Requirements

Lower Division Requirements

These introductory courses, ideally taken in the first or second year of the major, provide a foundation in the content and methods of the three major areas of study. These courses are typically taken for 4 units and students must earn a minimum of 3 units in these classes.

Freshman Year

- W&L 1: Writing & Literature Colloquium and W&L 2: Freshman Colloquium Seminar (taken together for 4 units)
- W&L 10: Creative Writing
- W&L 20: Writing Studies
- W&L 30: Literary Study

Sophomore Year

- W&L 1: Colloquium and W&L 3: Sophomore Seminar (taken together for 4 units)

Upper Division Requirements

Students are also required to take 12 units of upper division coursework in each of the areas of Creative Writing, Writing Studies, and Literary Study. Students will work one-on-one with their faculty advisor to select appropriate classes from the offerings in the College of Creative Studies and the College of Letters and Science. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.00 for all required non-CCS courses.

During their junior and senior year, students are encouraged to take individualized with their faculty advisor to help them work towards their senior portfolio. Such classes include:

- W&L 190: Junior Tutorial (must take a minimum of 6 units throughout the junior year and can be repeated for up to 12 units)
- W&L 197: Senior Portfolio (must take a minimum of 6 units throughout the senior year and can be repeated for up to 12 units)

Portfolio Reviews

Writing & Literature majors will keep a portfolio of their work throughout their four years in the program. Students will undergo at least two rigorous reviews of that portfolio:

- Mid-Residency Portfolio Review: Students entering the major as freshmen will ideally have their mid-residency review in Winter/Spring of their second year, but no later than Fall of the third year. The Mid-Residency Review Portfolio should include work from all major requirements that the student has taken up to that point and a proposal for their senior portfolio project. Students should arrange this review with their faculty advisor and at least two other faculty members who have shown interest in their work.
- Senior Portfolio Review: During their last quarter, students should arrange their senior review with their faculty advisor and at least two other faculty members who have shown interest in their work. The senior portfolio should include a collection of related creative and/or scholarly works as well as reflection on their learning.