

# The English: Creative Writing Major

The creative writing program at PC focuses on writing as an art form and helping you find your own voice. It strengthens your written communication skills while providing an outlet for expression and creativity in your genres of choice. In workshops, you develop verbal communication and presentation skills, and you learn how to give and receive feedback. The creative writing program prepares you for graduate school and a variety of careers including copywriting, teaching and marketing.

PC's smaller class sizes allow professors to give you individual attention. As you interact with classmates you'll feel part of a community of writers. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

## What You'll Study When You Concentrate in Creative Writing

Your experience as a creative writing student centers on class workshops. Here your writing is shaped and refined through class readings and critiques. Your classmates offer constructive criticism as a whole class and sometimes in small groups. If this process sounds intimidating to you, remember that class sizes are small – they are capped at 10. These workshops are safe spaces for sharing your work, where feedback is honest but always respectful. And here you're free to explore topics and develop your work in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

The creative writing concentration requires 33 hours of coursework, including 18 hours from the English major curriculum. Concentration courses begin with foundational workshops in Poetry, Short Fiction or Creative Nonfiction. You may also explore other Topics in Creative Writing, like children's lit, fantasy, worldbuilding and fairy tales. While these courses focus on reading and responding to original student work, representative pieces from contemporary writers are also studied. Each 2000-level course culminates in a portfolio. During your final two years you'll create a large-scale project in an Advanced Creative Writing Workshop or Honors Research course. In your Senior Portfolio, you'll be asked to take pieces from different courses to revise substantially for a professional-level portfolio of writing.

## Student Experiences

Whatever your major, PC offers a number of opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

1. **Studying abroad.** PC's English department organizes "Maymester" trips to a variety of international locations such as Berlin, China, England, Ireland and Prague. Students recently spent their spring break studying literature and creative writing in Paris.
2. **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
3. **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
4. **Internships.** You can intern on campus as a teaching assistant or a literary journal editor.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other extracurricular activities are available to you as a student in the English department.

1. **Publications.** Students may write and edit for the *Blue Stocking* campus newspaper and *Figs & Thistles*, the literary magazine.
2. **Speaker Series.** The English department invites published writers onto campus to speak with students, sit in on classes and give public readings. And former students who continue to write may present works in the Alumni Reading Series.
3. **Writing Center.** You can work on campus as a tutor and help other students strengthen their writing skills.
4. **Film.** The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers visits campus each year. Students have the opportunity to watch films and meet the filmmakers.

## Fast Facts

1. More state Professors of the Year – including two English professors – have taught at PC than at any other institution in South Carolina.
2. PC's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society connects you with fellow English enthusiasts through academic and social events.
3. Julia Koets '05 is an award-winning author and poet, and holds both an MFA and a PhD in Creative Writing.
4. Every year PC recognizes a student with the Creative Writing Award, which includes a monetary prize.

## Career Outcomes

If you've heard that humanities degrees are impractical and not valued in the job market, you can put those rumors to rest. Your English degree, with its emphasis on creativity and written communication, prepares you for employment in a variety of

sectors. While English majors make great writers and professors, many also follow career paths into advertising, business and law.

According to PayScale's [College Salary Report](#), a bachelor's degree in English can earn you a mid-career salary of \$69,000 or more. Many English majors find high-paying positions with titles like Content Marketing Manager and Communications Director.

Graduates from PC's creative writing program have pursued advanced degrees in creative writing, law, medicine and theology. They teach at primary and secondary schools in the US, and internationally in places like Thailand and Hong Kong. And alumni have gone on to careers in public relations and financial services. No matter your major, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, communication and other soft skills employers look for.

## Meta Page Description

In Presbyterian College's creative writing program, you build a professional writing portfolio as you hone skills like communication and creativity.