Creative Writing (BA)

Major Academic Director: Sharon Dilworth (BH 260F); Undergraduate Academic Coordinator: Laura Donaldson (BH 259)
Website: https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/english/

While studying with faculty members who are practicing poets and prose writers and screenwriters, Creative Writing majors explore the resources of their imaginations, sharpen their critical and verbal skills, and develop a professional attitude about their writing. The program is made up of faculty and students who have an intense commitment to their work. Students who do not exhibit a high level of commitment and promise in the introductory classes will not be encouraged to continue in the major. At the heart of the program is the workshop, where in small, roundtable classes, student work is considered and critiqued by peers and a professor. The workshops emphasize constructive criticism and the incorporation of criticism in revision. The workshop process helps students to practice their craft, to experiment, and to grow as writers.

Because the Creative Writing program provides a disciplined atmosphere in which to study and write, it appeals especially to students who are as concerned with their personal growth as with vocational goals.

Freshman interested in Creative Writing should come to the fall Creative Writing meeting and learn about opportunities for student writers, including: helping with the student reading series, working on the Oakland Review or The Tartan, or Dossier. There are also literary events in Pittsburgh that students can attend (listed in the City Paper), such as: Adamson Visiting Writers Series at CMU, Contemporary Writer’s Series at the University of Pittsburgh, and Drue Heinz Literary Evenings at Carnegie Music Hall.

This is a suggested schedule for the first 2 years for a Primary Major. It is also available as an Additional Major and a Minor.

The remainder of the Major and GenEd can be completed in the junior and senior year.

*76-101 must be completed prior to taking English Core Courses.
**Elective: This space can be used for a pre-requisite course, another GenEd course, major course, or for a course you are interested in.
***Complete Two Survey of Forms Courses: 76-260, 76-261, 76-262, 76-265, 76-269.
****Complete One Reading in Forms Course: 76-362, 76-363, 76-364.

Academic Advisory Center (4/6/2018)