“Your imagination is actually leading you to see how life can be better.”
— Brenda Ueland

Do you want to write?

The University of Alabama's Program in Creative Writing is among the most renowned in the nation, with an 80-year tradition of distinction that counts among its alumni generations of working writers. As a training ground for the aspiring writer, it’s tough to beat what we offer in Tuscaloosa: a foundational depth of literary study and an expansive interdisciplinary practice in writing across genres. You will study with established as well as emerging authors and scholars, be part of a thriving art and intellectual culture, and have opportunities to augment your education with valuable applied knowledge in digital storytelling, editing, marketing, and PR. Our aim is to produce creative writers assured in the craft who can carry their vocations to graduate school or any kind of job, be it publishing books, media, teaching, arts administration, or the professions.

So as you consider your future and how to make college work for you, take a hard look at Alabama English and Creative Writing. Don't buy into the line that pursuing what you're passionate about is not a viable pathway to a sustainable career. The truth is that YOU are your best asset; and the world needs all the smart people it can get. Our students are reading the best lit, creating original art, and becoming writers: growing into people of courage and determination with the talent and will to succeed. The University of Alabama is a place where writers are made.

As a Creative Writer at UA You Will:

- Learn from award-winning and emerging authors
- Become part of a storied program with a rich tradition
- Write across genres and gain valuable media skills
- Join a thriving campus and local arts culture
- Get involved with an active student community
- Attend local readings, learn from visiting writers
- Enjoy small class sizes and an innovative curriculum
- Gain intensive literary training as an English Major (or combine Creative Writing with any major)
Be Ready for Your Moment

It may be commonplace to say how fast the world changes, how uncertain the future, yet it’s never been more true. No college major will guarantee you a job, but the best college major for you will prepare you to face any challenge with confidence. For those who read and write and do it well, who can think with imagination, who have an artistic bent and value the discipline of being human—English and Creative Writing can nourish your gifts.

Employers want independent-minded, adaptable, emotionally mature people. You want a life rich with rewarding experiences, to be equipped for mastery in your field, and to do meaningful work. So trust yourself, build on your natural abilities and interests. Do what you love but be smart about it so that when the right door opens, when your big break arrives, you’ll be ready.

Career Paths for English & Creative Writing

The Creative Writing minor is a studio-based curriculum with professional skills development. It prepares you for jobs in media and the arts, to work as a writer, to pursue an MFA, as well as for lifelong writing enjoyment.

- One multi-genre course introducing contemporary writers, the creative process, and aesthetic values
- Two intermediate courses in poetry and prose
- Any three upper-level special topics courses in creative writing, which range from genre and forms workshops to classes dedicated to film, graphic novels, publishing, and more

The English major fosters imagination and empathy, cultivates critical reading, effective writing, and analytic thinking.

- Three courses from your choice of surveys in American, British, World, or African-American literature or introductions to creative writing or linguistics
- One course in composition, linguistics, digital writing, or literary methodology
- One course in literature before 1700
- One course from the eighteenth and/or nineteenth centuries
- Six upper-level courses from your choice of literature, literary theory, composition, digital writing, linguistics, and creative writing

The Alabama Program

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