



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM
GUIDELINES FOR
PROSPECTIVE CREATIVE WRITING MAJORS**

(UPDATED JAN 2018)

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INTRODUCTION

The Creative Writing Program at UBC is unique within North America, offering workshops in the following eleven genres: fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, writing for children, translation, stage play, radio, song lyric and libretto, screenwriting, new media, and writing for graphic forms. The approximately 50 undergraduate Majors and 15 faculty in the program make up a lively literary community. Students can become involved with a variety of reading series, publications, and performances, including our annual theatre festival, Brave New Play Rites. Students also can participate in literary events both on-campus and in the diverse literary milieu of Vancouver.

The Creative Writing Program offers undergraduate courses that lead to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree. This two-year studio program is taken in years three and four of an undergraduate degree. In this Program, apprentice writers are offered instruction by faculty who work in a variety of literary and dramatic forms.

Students who have completed all the degree requirements for a Double Major in Creative Writing and another subject falling within the BA (Bachelor of Arts) program may choose to graduate with either a BFA or a BA.

Students seeking admission to the Major program in Creative Writing should apply by the end of their second year of university. As the number of places in the program is strictly limited, applicants must submit a cover letter and portfolio of their original writing in two different genres for consideration. Admission as a Creative Writing Major is determined solely by review of a manuscript of the student's writing and cover letter. The submission deadline is **Friday March 30, 2018**.

The students' original writing comprises the principal text for discussion in all workshop courses. The material must be of high quality and interest, and contain exemplary elements of, as well as attempt new directions in, technique that can be shared and studied. Deadlines and quotas are set to encourage and develop professional discipline. Regular attendance and active participation in workshops is expected. Students are encouraged to consult regularly with instructors.

MINORING IN CREATIVE WRITING

Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year, UBC Students who are majors in other programs have the option of pursuing a Minor in Creative Writing. Students must complete 12 credits of 200-level courses, and 18 credits of 300-level courses over the course of their degree. 400-level courses may be substituted for 300 level credits, but are only open to non-BFA Majors in exceptional circumstances.

There is no application required for a Minor in Creative Writing. Please consult your home faculty's advising office for information on how to declare a Minor in Creative Writing.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDENTS

Interdisciplinary students are welcome to take any 200 and 300-level courses. Those who wish to take 400-level creative writing courses must apply to the program through the same process as a BFA major and indicate that they are applying as an interdisciplinary student who wishes to take creative writing

courses. Upon acceptance into the program these students must meet with the Undergraduate Advisor to discuss their plan of study.

APPLYING FOR INDIVIDUAL COURSES

All 200 and 300-level Creative Writing courses are open to all students. There is no need to apply. Students who are not Creative Writing Majors and are interested in taking 400-level Creative Writing must apply. Please note that space in these courses is very limited, and there is not often room to accommodate students who are not BFA majors. Please contact the Undergraduate Advisor for more detail.

MAJORING IN CREATIVE WRITING

Please note that according to UBC policy, students cannot be accepted as Creative Writing Majors unless they have third year standing at the beginning of their BFA program, which generally requires **54 completed credits**. Applicants should ensure that they will have the required number of course credits and standing before applying as a Major.

The number of places in the program is strictly limited. Applicants submit a cover letter and manuscript, which includes samples of their original writing in two genres for consideration.

Three credits of 200 level Creative Writing, or equivalent, is a prerequisite before entering the Program. Students who transfer from another university/college are permitted to apply for a Major if they have taken a course equivalent to an introductory creative writing course. Special consideration will be given to transfer students whose home institution did not offer a course equivalent for the prerequisite.

Majors must complete 48 upper level credits, 36 of which are in Creative Writing courses numbered 400 or above in workshop courses in four different genres. 200 and 300-level Creative Writing courses do not count as a genre or towards the 36 credits required to fulfill a Major in Creative Writing beginning Fall 2013.

Majors may not enroll in more than 18 credits per year in Creative Writing workshops due to course demands on the student. However, lecture and elective courses, when offered, are permitted in addition to the 18 credits in workshops but do not count towards the 36 credits required to fulfill a Major in Creative Writing.

Majors may not take more than one class in each form per semester. For example, it is not permitted to take two poetry classes in one term.

Creative Writing classes are in high demand. Space is limited. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that all students will get seats in the classes and genres of their choice.

Genres taken in third year may be taken again in fourth year as long as space permits and the credit maximum for the specific course has not been exceeded.

BFA DEGREE

Creative Writing offers a BFA degree. Current UBC students who have been accepted as Majors and are currently registered for a BA degree need to complete a "Change of Faculty" form through the Student Service Centre to switch their registration from a BA to a BFA.

DOUBLE MAJOR

Students who double major may choose to graduate with either a BA or a BFA degree, if the other department offers a BA degree. Students who are not double majoring with another department must graduate with a BFA degree. Students who wish to double major should contact the other department for information on how to apply, degree requirements, and deadlines.

HONOURS MAJOR

(Under review. No new applicants will be accepted)

COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration for 400-level courses is blocked for students who are not Creative Writing Majors or grads in our Program. Students who have been accepted as Majors self-register for Creative Writing workshops and elective courses through their Student Services account.

Students will be notified of their registration date on their Student Services account. Students will be able to register themselves as soon as their registration date becomes available. Follow the instructions on the Student Services website <http://www.students.ubc.ca/>. Set up an account and pay the registration deposit before attempting registration.

COURSE PLANNING

1. Check the Course Descriptions on our website.
2. Check the UBC course calendar (<http://courses.students.ubc.ca/cs/main>) to see if there are any time conflicts with other courses or with your work schedule.
3. Pay the registration deposit in advance of your registration date.
4. Classes fill quickly so plan which courses are your first choices as well as your second choices.
Note: 4th year Majors are able to register themselves for courses before 3rd year students. Please do not register in more courses than you intend to take.
5. Register for courses as soon as your registration date becomes available.
6. Keep checking the registration web page if you do not get into the course you wanted. If a Major drops a course it will open a seat for the next Major who registers.

DROPPING A COURSE

Majors can drop a course through their Student Services account. Remember to check the drop deadline in advance. A student who drops a course after the deadline passes receives a “W” on their academic record.

If a student has any doubts whether to stay in a course or drop it, he/she should consult with the instructor or with the Undergraduate Advisor.

If a student decides to drop a course after attending a class the student should let the instructor know.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A MAJOR

IMPORTANT: Please note that according to UBC policy, students cannot study as Creative Writing Majors unless they have at least third year standing at the beginning of their program. Applicants should ensure that they will meet this requirement before applying as a Major.

ADMISSION TO UBC

Applicants who are not currently UBC students must **first** apply for admission to UBC. The deadline is usually January for entry in September. Please check the enrolment services site at <http://you.ubc.ca/contact-us/> for the exact date and details. Applicants should indicate that they are applying for a Major in Creative Writing, and should also list an alternative major. Apply at: <http://you.ubc.ca/admissions/how-to-apply/>

Transcripts must be sent directly to Enrolment Services, Admissions Dept. by the deadline noted on the above website.

If you have questions about applying for admission to UBC, please contact Enrolment Services.

APPLY FOR A MAJOR IN CREATIVE WRITING

Students who wish to major in Creative Writing should apply by the end of their second year of university. As the number of places in the program is strictly limited, applicants must submit a completed Creative Writing online application form, which includes the upload of three documents: a personal cover letter, and manuscript of their original writing in a minimum of at least **two** different genres for evaluation. **Deadline: Friday, March 30, 2018.**

Manuscripts are read and discussed by the Creative Writing faculty. Successful applicants must place in the top-ranking category of all Major applicants. Each year 80-100 students apply to become Majors and approximately 25-30 students are accepted.

Students will be notified regarding their acceptance as Majors by the end of May.

Faculty evaluations of the applicant's writing samples are confidential. The Creative Writing Program does not offer suggestions or critiques.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following information and documents must be submitted by the application deadline via our online application form.

1. Completed Creative Writing Questionnaire form (online). Indicate on the form that you will have third year UBC status at the start of the BFA program in Winter 2018/19 (generally requires 54 completed course credits), whether a previous undergraduate degree exists, whether a prerequisite 200-level Creative Writing course or equivalent (state equivalent) has been completed or will be completed before the start of the Program, and whether the applicant intends to pursue a double Major. Indicate which two genres have been included in the writing sample and which further genres the applicant intends to study if accepted.
2. One page (single-spaced) personal cover letter. In the letter, state your writing experience, which includes: publications, productions, awards, and other significant information including previous workshop experience outside of UBC if applicable. Applicants may also wish to outline their interests in new genres.
3. Manuscript: Samples of applicant's original writing from two different genres. When a sample for a genre contains multiple works, please include at the beginning a table of contents.

The above documents must be uploaded as Word documents or PDFs **only**.

Applications are accepted online at the following address only:

<http://creativewriting.ubc.ca/prospective-students/undergraduate/bfa-application/>

PLEASE NOTE:

Applications must be submitted using the online form. No email applications are accepted.

Do **not** submit any texts that are longer than the genre guidelines indicated below.

Minimum page requirement for all genres: 10 pages. Maximum pages vary by genre; please see the genre-specific requirements.

The following standards are used for uploading files:

1. All files must be in PDF or Word format. Files in other formats will not be accepted.
2. Upload three files: one file for the personal cover letter, and one file for each of the two genre writing samples submitted.
3. Name the files using your last name in capitals, then your first name lower case, then the genre. For example, Charlotte Brontë's application in two genres would contain three documents named as follows:
BRONTËcharlotteLETTER
BRONTËcharlottePOETRY
BRONTËcharlotteFICTION

MANUSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS PER GENRE

Minimum 10 pages per genre. Please check below for details and maximum page counts for each genre. Submit two different genres. If you feel one genre is stronger, indicate this on your cover letter and questionnaire form.

FICTION: Maximum 20 pages, double-spaced, numbered. Submission may be one long piece or a number of shorter works totalling 20 pages. Short or long fiction (i.e., short story or novel excerpt). Note that long and short fiction constitutes only one genre.

POETRY: Maximum 15 pages, single-spaced, numbered. No more than one poem per page (i.e. no more than 15 poems).

SCREEN: Maximum 20 pages of a screenplay. This can consist of short screenplay(s) or the first 20 pages of a feature-length work. Sample scripts (also called show scripts) from pre-existing television series as well as adaptations or collaborations of any kind are not acceptable. The writing and development of characters, etc., must be original to you alone. Screenplays should follow industry-standard formatting.

STAGE: Maximum 30 pages: excerpt from a full-length play, or one or more one-act plays. Adaptations or collaboration of any kind are not acceptable. The writing and development of characters, etc., must be original to you. It is preferred that stage plays should follow the standard industry formatting.

RADIO: Maximum of 20 pages: can be an excerpt from a full-length radio script, or one or more shorter scripts. Adaptations or collaborations of any kind are not acceptable. The writing & development of characters etc., must be original to you. It is preferred that radio scripts should follow standard industry formatting.

WRITING FOR CHILDREN: Maximum of 20 pages, double-spaced, numbered. Illustrations do not count towards the page requirement. The manuscript may be a short story, novel, picture-book text (formatted like a short story with no descriptions of art unless absolutely necessary—e.g. the visuals juxtapose with text), poetry, stage play or screenplay but the target audience should be children, including young adults.

CREATIVE NONFICTION: Maximum 25 pages, double-spaced, numbered. Acceptable forms of cnf may include, but aren't limited to, autobiography/memoir, personal essays, cultural reviews, magazine articles, blogs, travel writing – anything written in your own readily identifiable personal voice. Do not submit academic essays or reports.

TRANSLATION: Maximum 15 numbered pages, double-spaced, except poetry, which should be single-spaced. No more than one poem per page. Submit translated work into English in any literary genre. Translations may be from any language. Include photocopies of original text only in Spanish or French; original does not count towards page requirement.

SONG LYRICS AND LIBRETTO: Maximum 20 pages, double-spaced, numbered. Pieces can be song lyrics or short prose/poems applicants deem conducive to being reworked as song. For libretto, submit 10-20 pages, double-spaced, numbered, as text, with or without score. In addition to either of the above, a CD of up to three musical pieces may be submitted. CDs can be mailed or dropped off at the Creative Writing office, Buchanan E block room 462.

GRAPHIC FORMS: Up to 25 pages. Maximum file size 19MB. PDF or Word format only. Material can be script only, or script and art if you illustrate your own work.

CREATIVE WRITING COURSES

Six-credit courses are conducted from September through April. Three-credit courses may be offered in either term 1 or term 2. **Not every course will be offered every year.** Check the UBC course calendar for up to date listings. Courses are usually not offered during the summer with the exception of some 200 level courses.

COURSES OPEN TO NON-BFA MAJORS (OPEN ENROLMENT):

Any 200 level course or approved transferred equivalent* constitutes a prerequisite for a Major. *See B.C. Transfer guide www.bctransferguide.ca Non B.C. students should consult the Undergraduate Advisor. 200 and 300 level courses do not count towards the 36 credits for the BFA degree.

CRWR 200 (3) Introduction to Creative Writing

Covers multiple genres from fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, drama for the stage and screen, new media, graphic forms and lyric forms.

CRWR 201 (3) Introduction to Writing Poetry

CRWR 203 (3) Introduction to Writing for Children and Young Adults

CRWR 205 (3) Introduction to Writing Creative Nonfiction

CRWR 206 (3) Introduction to the Screenplay

CRWR 208 (3) Introduction to Writing for Graphic Forms

CRWR 209 (3) Introduction to Writing Fiction

CRWR 211 (3) Introduction to Writing for Lyric Forms

CRWR 213 (3) Introduction to Writing for the New Media

CRWR 217 (3) Introduction to Writing for Stage Play and Radio

CRWR 230 (3) Introduction to Writing for Comedic Forms

CRWR 301 (3) Intermediate Writing Poetry

CRWR 302 (3) Podcasting

CRWR 303 (3) Intermediate Writing for Children and Young Adults

CRWR 305 (3) Intermediate Writing Creative Nonfiction

CRWR 306 (3) Intermediate Writing for the Screen

CRWR 307 (3) Intermediate Writing for the Stage and Radio

CRWR 308 (3) Intermediate Writing for Graphic Forms

CRWR 309 (3) Intermediate Writing Fiction

CRWR 310 (3) Video Game Writing and Narrative

CRWR 311 (3) Intermediate Writing for Lyric Forms

None of the above courses assure admission to the Major program; applicants are accepted based on the quality of their manuscripts.

COURSES FOR THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR CREATIVE WRITING MAJORS:

Not every course will be offered every year. Check the UBC Course Calendar for up to date listings.

CRWR 401: Writing Poetry I

CRWR 402: Writing for New Media

CRWR 403: Writing for Children and Young Adults I

CRWR 404: Writing for Radio I

CRWR 405: Writing Creative Nonfiction I

CRWR 406: Writing for the Screen I

CRWR 407: Writing of Drama for the Stage I

CRWR 408: Writing for Graphic Forms I

CRWR 409: Writing of Fiction I

CRWR 411: Writing for Lyric Forms I

CRWR 415: Workshop in Literary Translation I

CRWR 416: Writing for Television I

CRWR 430 (3 credits) Preparation for a Career in Writing

Elective course. Does not count toward credit for the workshop requirements.

CRWR 451: Writing Poetry II

CRWR 453: Writing for Children and Young Adults II

CRWR 455: Writing Creative Nonfiction II

CRWR 456: Writing for the Screen II

CRWR 457: Writing Drama for the Stage II

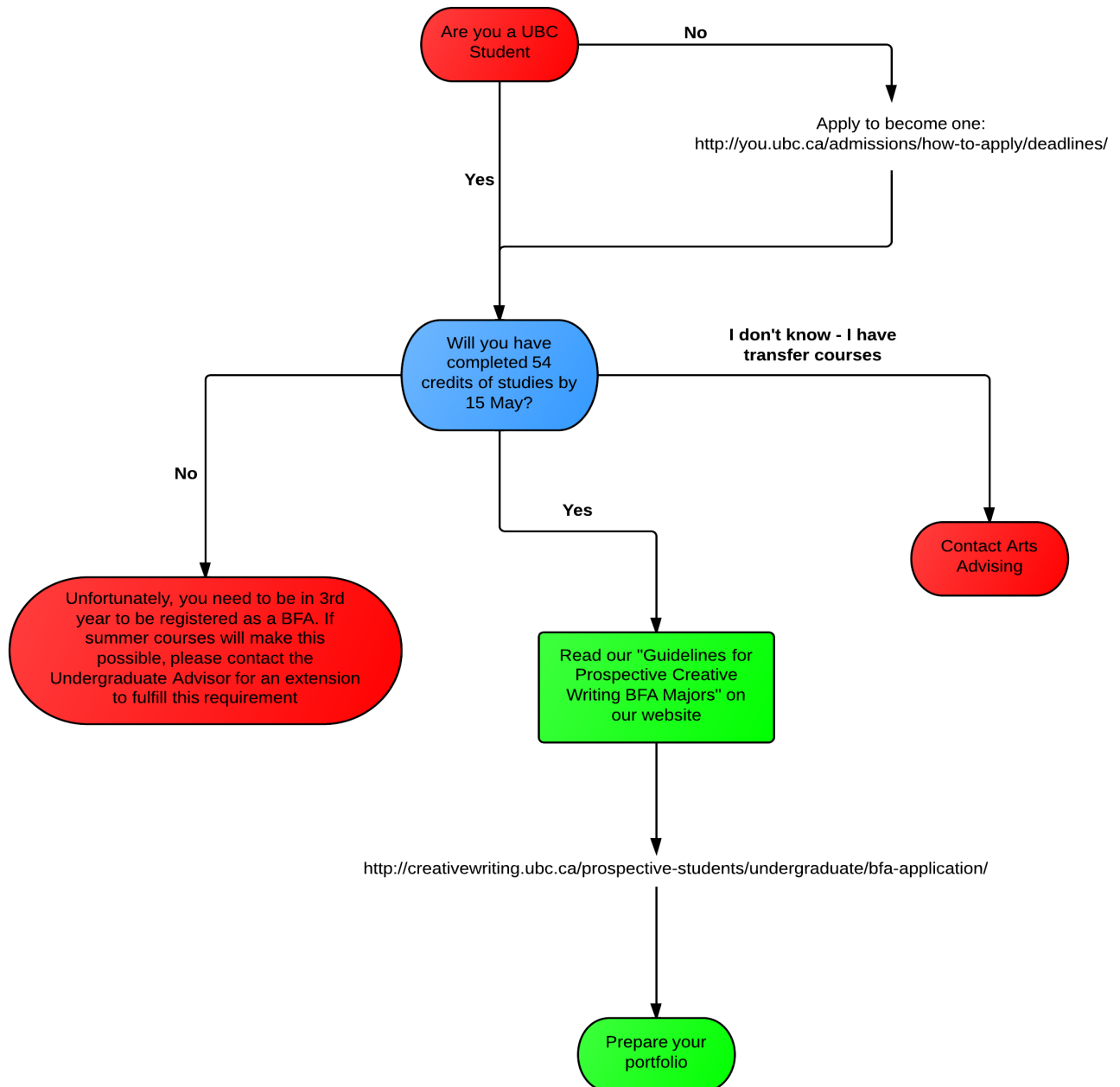
CRWR 459: Writing of Fiction II

QUICK REFERENCE FLOWCHARTS

HOW TO APPLY FOR A BFA MAJOR IN CREATIVE WRITING

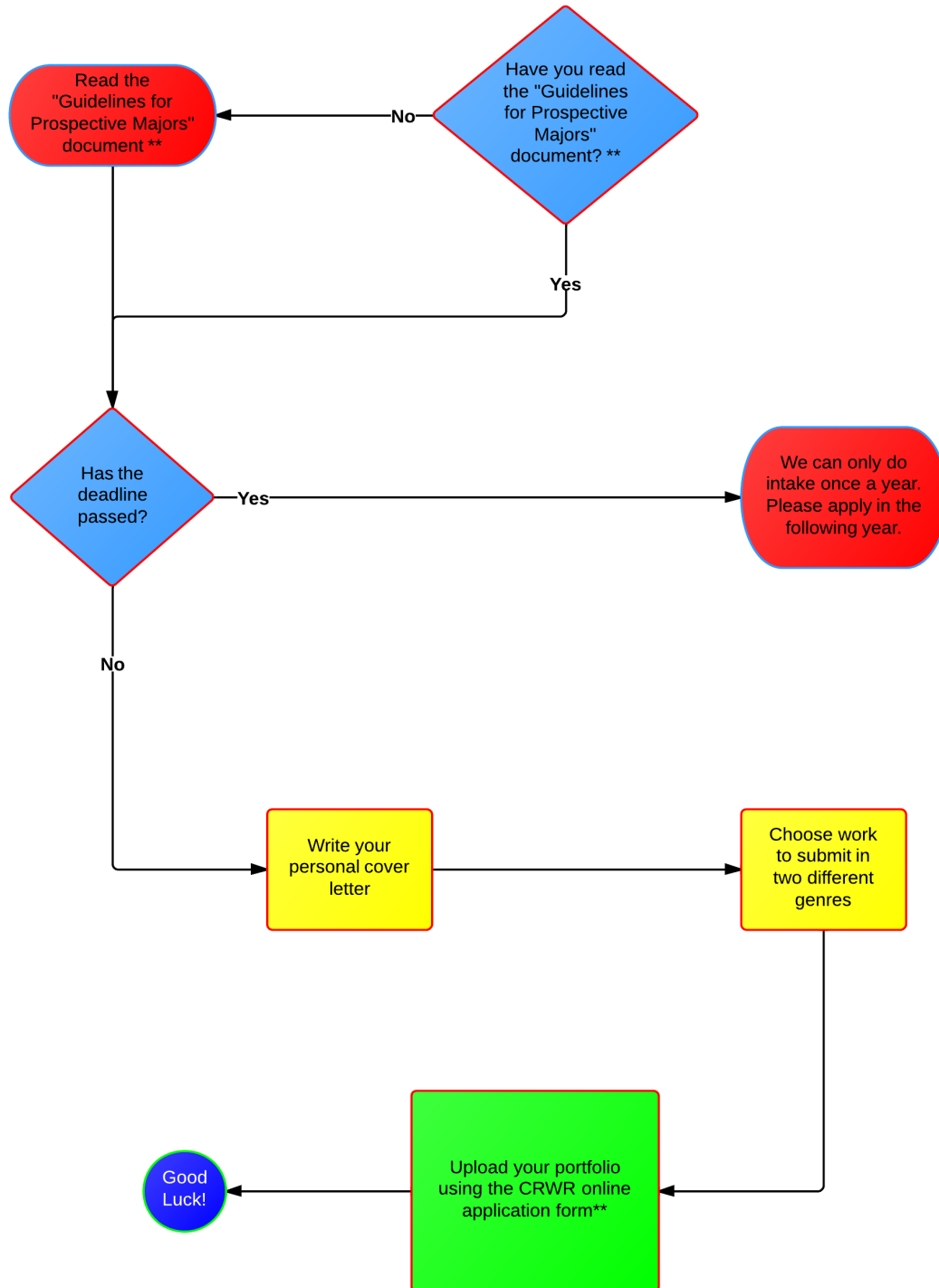
How to Apply for a BFA Major in Creative Writing

The BFA Major Program is a studio program, and does not take grades into account when admitting students. Admission is based *entirely* on manuscript portfolio



PREPARING YOUR PORTFOLIO

Preparing Your BFA Major in Creative Writing Application Portfolio



**Available at:
<http://creativewriting.ubc.ca/prospective-students/undergraduate/bfa-application/>

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