



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Creative Writing

Faculty of Arts

CREATIVE WRITING MAJOR and MINOR

Information Session

NOVEMBER 27, 2023





Genres We Teach

- Poetry
- New Media (Podcasting, video games)
- Writing for Children and Young Adults
- Creative Nonfiction
- Dramatic Writing for the Screen/TV
- Dramatic Writing for the Stage
- Graphic Forms (Comics)
- Fiction (including Speculative Fiction)
- Lyric Forms (songwriting)
- Comedic Forms
- Climate Writing
- Writing with an Indigenous Focus
- Literary Translation
- Hybrid Forms
- Etc.



Two Undergraduate Options:

CRWR Major

- Portfolio Application
- 36 credits of 400-level courses
- All classes capped at 12
- Many students take courses at the 200 and 300-level before applying

CRWR Minor

- Self-declared in year 2/3
- 30 credits of 200, 300, and 35X classes
- Classes start large and get smaller as you advance



CRWR Minor Program Requirements and Structure

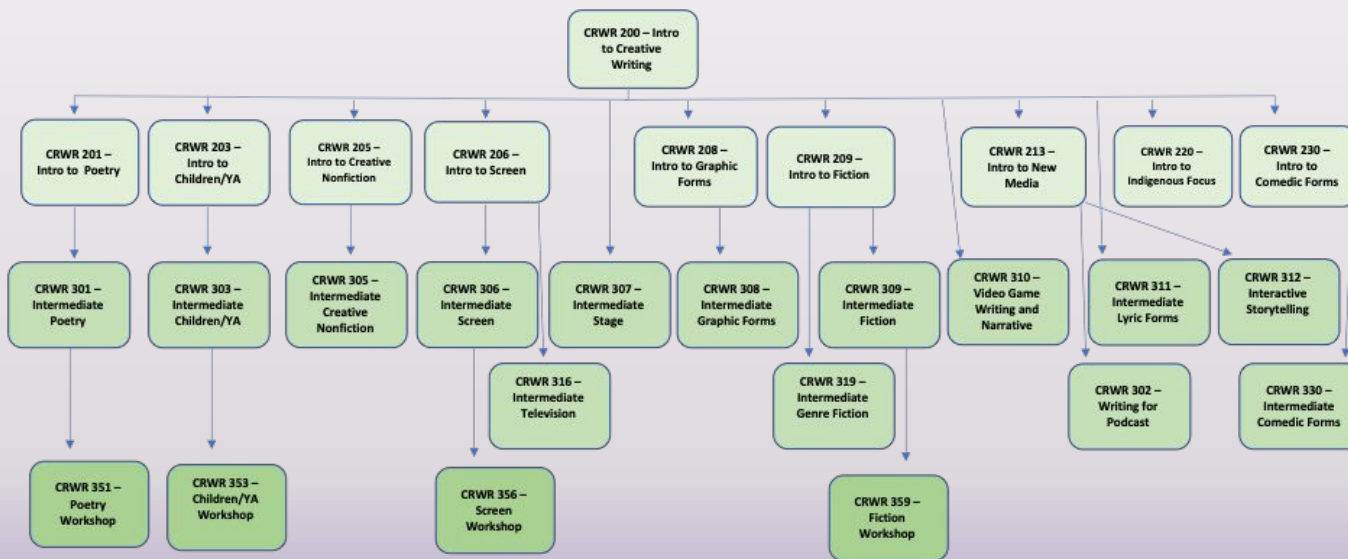
- 30 credits of 200 & 300-level CRWR courses
- Students can follow a 3-course path in four genres – poetry, fiction, screenwriting and children’s/YA fiction
- On this path, you build a solid base in technique and craft, developing your writing in the 35* workshop setting
- Most 300 level courses require the 200-level prerequisite in the same genre
 - For example, to take CRWR 301 you must have taken CRWR 201



CRWR Minor Program Planning

CRWR Minor Requirements:

- CRWR 200
- 9 additional credits of 200-level CRWR coursework
- 18 credits of 300-level CRWR coursework



Visual program guide available on our webpage

<https://creativewriting.ubc.ca/undergraduate/creative-writing-programs/minor/>



Structure of the CRWR Major Program

- Fine Arts Program in the Faculty of Arts
- Closed studio program
 - focus is on experiential learning
 - students learn by writing and in engaging with the writing process of others
 - attention to craft and critical reading
- Multi-genre program with emphasis on genre cross-training
- Students are encouraged to explore genres that are new or challenging
- Small writing workshops of up to 12 students
- Requirements of the Major:
 - 36 credits of 400-level CRWR workshop courses
 - in at least 4 genres
- Program is designed to be completed over 2 years (3 courses per term)



CRWR Major Eligibility

- Students must have an active UBC status. Transfer students and Second Degree students must apply to UBC Enrolment Services by January 15, 2024, before submitting their CRWR application
- Most students apply during their second year of studies. Requires third year status as of September 2024 (54 completed credits)
- No GPA requirement
- CRWR 200 or equivalent must be completed (if you are unsure about an equivalent course, please email crwr.undergrad@ubc.ca)



Application Process

- Application window: January 8 to February 28, 2024 for a September 2024 start
- One application cycle per year / no late applications
- Students can apply in any of the 9 genres listed on our Application Guidelines.
 - Once admitted, students can study any genre offered
- Four application components:
 1. The online application form (accessed on the Apply section of our website)
 2. A Personal Statement
 3. A manuscript of writing in a primary genre
 4. A manuscript of writing in a second genre
- Guidelines are posted on our website with full details on the application process.
<https://creativewriting.ubc.ca/undergraduate/creative-writing-programs/major/apply/>
- Applications are circulated to faculty readers who assess writing samples anonymously. Do not include your name on the statement or manuscript submission.
- Applicants will be notified of decisions by May 2024
- Acceptance rate: each year, approx. 100 applications and accept 25 students (25%)



Advice on Personal Statement

- Tell us about who you are—and want to become—as a writer
 - How your background and experiences have shaped your writing
 - Creative influences
 - What genres you are most interested in and why
 - What you've enjoyed about the previous creative writing courses you've taken
 - Accomplishments and goals
- Talk to us about how you learn from and with others
 - What experiences have prepared you to engage in the work of others and support their growth
 - What appeals to you about a workshop-based program
- We will be assessing your statement anonymously. Do not include your name.



Advice on the Manuscript (Writing Samples)

We are often asked: “How do I make my manuscript great?”

- We are open to a wide range of stylistic and aesthetic approaches. We have a diverse faculty reading the applications.
- We are looking for:
 - Original, fresh voices
 - Awareness of genre and craft
 - Care and attention to detail
 - Potential to learn/thrive in our program
- Pay attention to the manuscript guidelines and page requirements
- Instructors cannot review manuscripts before you submit them.
- We will be assessing your manuscript anonymously. Do not include your name.



Contacts

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Any other Questions?

- Please type your questions into the Chat



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Thank you for joining us!

