
Creative Writing

The Setting

We are a workshop program in a Midwestern city with a world class orchestra and art museum, great theater, perfect pierogis and a thriving community of writers. Cleveland State is home to the Cleveland State University Poetry Center, for over 50 years one of the country's significant publishers of contemporary poetry. Whiskey Island, a student managed, student edited literary magazine, has been publishing national and regional authors for over thirty years. We sponsor a steady stream of free public readings, residencies, and social events.

The Characters

A strong faculty published in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction or produced on-stage both locally and nationally is complemented each year by visiting authors for readings, performances, workshops and residencies. Our students range eclectically in background, age, and life experience. They bring with them not only writing talent, but a great deal of learning to write about.

The Plot

B.A. candidates can select a concentration in Creative Writing with the English major. Admission to either graduate program is competitive, based on a submission portfolio of the candidate's creative work as well as the academic record.

For additional information on Programs in Creative Writing please contact:

Michael Geither

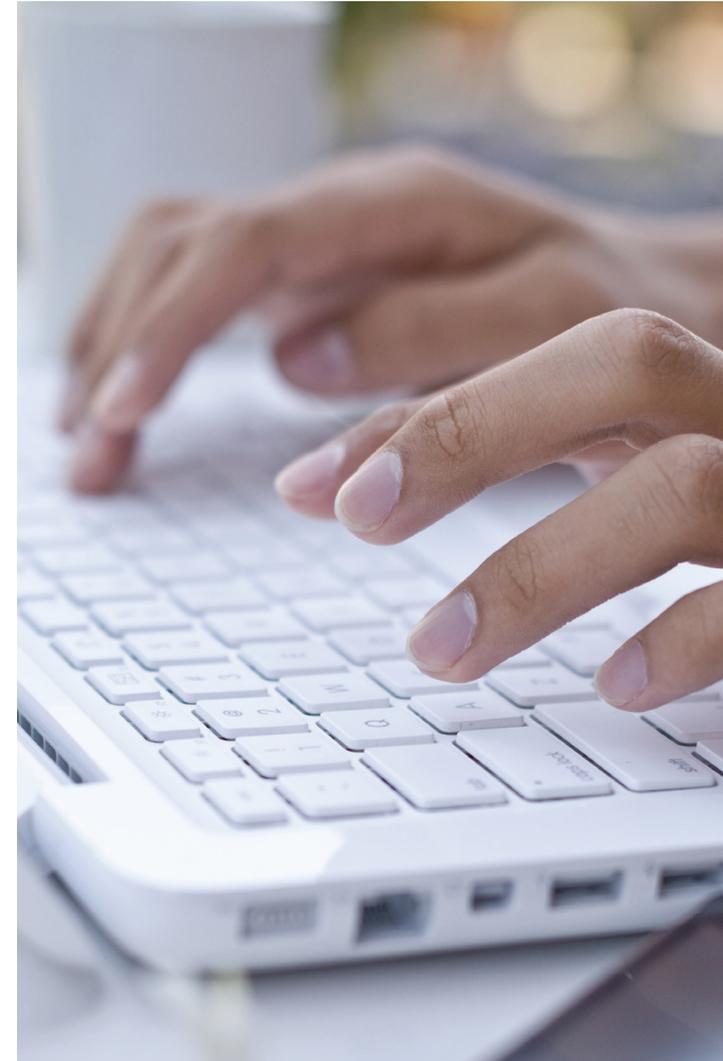
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CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**PROGRAMS IN
CREATIVE WRITING**

www.csuohio.edu/class/english

B.A., M.A., and M.F.A. Programs Available

The Department of English at Cleveland State University offers three degree options for creative writers: a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with Creative Writing emphasis, a Master of Arts Degree in English with Creative Writing emphasis and, in conjunction with NEOMFA, the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts program—a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing.

For Many Kinds of Writers

CSU Creative Writing offers concentrations in several genres: Fiction from short story to the novel, Creative Nonfiction from literary journalism to personal essay and memoir, and Poetry in all its many forms. CSU has one of very few programs to offer full concentration in Playwriting. There are focused workshops and craft and theory courses in all these areas with complementary literature courses available in English.

For more information or for guidelines on applying, contact:

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Associate Professor

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You can also write to us at:

Cleveland State University
Creative Writing Program Director

Department of English
2121 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Visit these websites:
csuohio.edu/class/english
neomfa.org
CSUpoetrycenter.com

What is the difference between the MA and the MFA?

The Master's Degree is a degree in English, focusing on Creative Writing within the general curriculum of graduate study for a literary scholar. Full-time, the Master's Degree can be completed in two years. It is not a terminal degree, which means that while especially useful for public school teachers, it would not qualify the graduate for tenure-track university positions.

The Master of Fine Arts Degree is a terminal degree in Creative Writing, the degree required of applicants for tenure-track university positions in the field. Full-time, this degree can be completed in three years through the NEOMFA Program.

What is NEOMFA?

The Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing or NEOMFA is the country's only consortial Master of Fine Arts Degree. This program brings over twenty creative writing faculty members from four Northeast Ohio universities (Cleveland State, Kent State, Youngstown State and the University of Akron) into a single comprehensive program. NEOMFA students have an extraordinary range of course options in four different areas of concentration and can register freely for courses across institutional boundaries.



What About employment?

For some few authors, writing is a high paying profession, for few more, primarily television and film writers or literary journalists, creative writing is an actual job. But there are no regular postings in the helps wanted pages for novelists, nor are there head hunters who specialize in poets. Some of our graduates earn grants or fellowships, publishing advances, and royalty income from their writing, but sooner or later most need a day job. The good news is that a skilled writer is equipped for a broad range of work. Communication skills, especially on the page, are everywhere in short supply. Our graduates work in many fields where writing skill matters – as technical or grant writers, editors, marketing wordsmiths, specialists in public relations. Advertising and “creative content” companies like American Greetings stay on the lookout for creative people. Many go into teaching, at all levels. There is even a steady though limited demand for teachers of creative writing. We arrange internships in areas like teaching, editing and arts management (for MFA students, such an internship is required), but motivation for entering the program should be foremost a passion for writing. The student most single-mindedly and doggedly focused on writing is also the student most likely to make it pay off in other ways.