

Undergraduate Certificate in Writing

The Certificate in Writing is a 21-credit program designed for those who desire to improve their writing skills. In today's world, the skillful use of the written word is fundamental. This program consists of academic courses taught by faculty of the Department of English. Participants may choose electives to focus on a particular style of writing or to obtain an overview of several writing styles. The program also offers internships with local media, including newspapers, magazines, and television.

Who should participate:

- Students already enrolled in a degree program in the College of General Studies (CGS) who wish to concentrate on the development of writing skills
- Those who already have a degree, but who wish to develop their writing skills for personal or professional advancement
- People seeking to embark upon writing as a profession

Upon completion of this certificate, participants will be able to:

- Write clearly and accurately.
- Apply writing skills to both fiction and nonfiction works.
- Understand different forms and techniques used in various types of writing.

This certificate is applicable to fields such as media, industrial organizations, governmental agencies, community groups, service providers, and businesses. Skilled writers may work in any organization or field.

Admission requirements

Students must meet requirements for admission to CGS. A certificate application form must be completed and returned to CGS. To avoid a late fee, you should complete this process when registering for courses.

Students must have completed a Seminar in Composition course or its equivalent before registering for any of the following classes.

Fees and tuition

Current tuition rates are available at www.ir.pitt.edu/tuition. Rates will change each July for the next academic year.

Payment plans

- Discover, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted for tuition payment via the Web at <http://student-info.pitt.edu>.
- If you are employed, check with your company's human resources office to see whether you qualify for company tuition benefits.
- Optional payment plans and deferrals are available for participants who wish to extend tuition payments over a longer period of time.

Obtaining the certificate

To receive the certificate, you must fill out an application with your academic advisor prior to completing your last term in the program. Check with your advisor for the application filing form and deadlines, and be sure all requirements for the certificate have been met. To avoid a late fee, you should complete this process when registering for the term.

Continued on back ...

Curriculum: 21 credits

In addition to Seminar in Composition, students must complete seven courses (21 credits). These classes should include two English writing courses (6 credits) and five English writing electives (15 credits). The following requirements also apply:

- A minimum of five of the required seven courses must be completed at the University of Pittsburgh.
- No course will be accepted for certificate credit with a grade below C, and no course will be accepted as a prerequisite for a higher-level course if the grade earned is lower than a C.

Required courses: 6 credits

all courses are 3 credits

- ENGWRT 0520 Introduction to Fiction Writing
- ENGWRT 0550 Introduction to Journalism

Electives: 15 credits

all courses are 3 credits

Courses offered vary by term. Choose five additional courses from any combinations of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. A sampling of courses that can be used to fulfill the certificate requirements include:

Poetry

- ENGWRT 0530 Introduction to Poetry Writing
- ENGWRT 1210 Poetry Workshop

Fiction

- ENGWRT 1010 Intermediate Fiction
- ENGWRT 1090 Mastering Point of View
- ENGWRT 1091 Autobiography and Creative Impulse
- ENGWRT 1092 Writer's Journals
- ENGWRT 1093 Development of a Writer
- ENGWRT 1094 Readings in Contemporary Fiction
- ENGWRT 1095 Topics in Fiction
- ENGWRT 1710 Senior Seminar in Fiction

Nonfiction

- ENGWRT 1310 Newspaper 1
- ENGWRT 1320 Newspaper 2
- ENGWRT 1330 Nonfiction 1
- ENGWRT 1340 Nonfiction 2
- ENGWRT 1390 Readings in Contemporary Nonfiction
- ENGWRT 1391 Writing the Review
- ENGWRT 1392 Documentary Film Writing
- ENGWRT 1393 Sports Writing
- ENGWRT 1394 Science Writing
- ENGWRT 1395 Public Relations Writing
- ENGWRT 1397 Creative Corporate Writing
- ENGWRT 1398 Corporate Speech Writing
- ENGWRT 1399 Topics in Nonfiction: Newspaper
- ENGWRT 1401 Topics in Nonfiction: Magazine
- ENGWRT 1402 Topics in Nonfiction: Electronic Media
- ENGWRT 1405 Broadcast Writing
- ENGWRT 1900 Internship: News

College of General Studies

The College of General Studies (CGS) provides adult and continuing education programs that are designed to address changing employer and student needs. The high-quality, flexible programs include courses, certificates, and degrees. CGS provides a single point of access to the University's innovative programs and services that both enrich lives and promote the economic health of the region.

Requirements subject to change. Check with an academic advisor before registering.

For more information, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
College of General Studies
412-624-6600
www.cgs.pitt.edu