English BA Learning Outcomes for Creative Writing Courses

1: Effective writing (SLO 6)

Students in the English BA program will demonstrate effective writing.

Students will demonstrate the general skills of college-level exposition developed to some degree of sophistication, as evident in the clarity, precision, fluidity, and aptness of sentence-level grammar, mechanics, and word choice; as well as in higher-level structural flexibility of sentences and paragraphs.

For those students who take creative writing courses, this outcome also involves the effective rendering of poetic lines, poetic stanzas, and dialogue.

2: Voice and style (creative writing only) (SLO 13)

Students in the English BA program who take creative writing courses will infuse their writing with voice and style.

The development of voice and style suggests that there is a person or persona behind the creative work (as opposed to in academic writing where voice is often necessarily muted in service of the argument). Voice and style can manifest through such elements as syntax, vocabulary, diction, musicality of language, inflection, and punctuation.

3: Engagement with genre and form (SLO 5)

Students in the English BA program will engage with genre and form.

For those students who take creative writing courses, this outcome may appear as implicit engagement, in the creative work itself, with generic and formal conventions, as for example the general generic categories of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and screenwriting; the finer distinctions among, say, prose poem, flash fiction, short story, novella, and novel; specific poetic verse forms such as the sonnet, villanelle, sestina, ghazal, or free verse; modes of fiction such as magical realism or psychological realism; or structural conventions such as linear narrative or experimental narratives that employ a variety of discourses.

4: Creativity and originality (SLO 12)

Students in the English BA program will display creativity and originality in argument, reasoning, or methodology.

For those students who take creative writing courses, this outcome pertains to creativity in a range of items including fresh concepts, unique ideas, novel approaches, unusual perspectives, surprising images, playful language usage, and innovative forms.
5: Insight (SLO 11)

Students in the English BA program will explore and render insight in argument, reasoning, and methodology.

For those students who take creative writing courses, this outcome requires profound and complex themes, independent of creativity and originality.

6: Complete development of a lyric meditation or narrative (creative writing only) (SLO 14)

Students in the English BA program who take creative writing courses will develop completely a substantive lyric meditation or narrative.

This outcome pertains to the completeness of the work, in the sense that the concept has been sufficiently explored so that there is a corresponding beginning, middle, and end that establishes, develops, and concludes the work organically.

7: Reflection on craft decisions or the relation to a genre or tradition (creative writing only) (SLO 15)

Students in the English BA program who take creative writing courses will reflect on their craft decisions or their relation to a genre or tradition.

This outcome pertains to the explicitly reflective, critical, or craft analytical component of a creative writing assignment.