

Submit originals and one copy to the Faculty Senate Office
Email electronic copy (with scanned signatures) to jbharvie@alaska.edu

REQUEST FOR A NEW MINOR

SUBMITTED BY:

Department	English	College/School	CLA
Prepared by	Gerri Brightwell	Phone	x5209
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See <http://www.uaf.edu/uafgov/faculty-senate/curriculum/course-degree-procedures/> for a complete description of the rules governing curriculum & course changes.

PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION:

TITLE OF MINOR:	Creative Writing	
	*Number of credits required for completion (minimum is 15):	15
*Unless otherwise specified by the appropriate academic unit, a course may be used more than once toward fulfilling degree, certificate, major and minor requirements. Credit hours for these courses count only once toward total credits required for the degree or certificate. Certifying that [the student has] met all major and minor requirements is the responsibility of [the student's] department faculty, who notify the Registrar's Office." From the General University Requirements section of "How to Earn a Bachelor's Degree" in the UAF Catalog.		
Do all the required courses currently exist?		No
<i>If not, list the corresponding New Course paperwork associated with this request:</i>		

Format 2: Drop course proposal:

ENGL 271: Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 272: Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGL 273: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
ENGL 371: Topics in Creative Writing

Format 1: New course proposal:

ENGL 271: Introduction to Creative Writing
ENGL 371: Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 372: Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGL 373: Creative Writing: Nonfiction
ENGL 473: Topics in Creative Writing

Format 7: Request for writing intensive designator:

ENGL 371: Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 372: Creative Writing: Poetry
ENGL 373: Creative Writing: Nonfiction
ENGL 473: Topics in Creative Writing

NB:

The following existing courses will continue to be offered:

ENGL 471: Undergraduate Writers' Workshop
ENGL 488: Dramatic Writing

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED MINOR. Include reasons justifying its creation; objectives of the minor and relationship of the required courses to those objectives.

There is a strong interest in creative writing at amongst UAF's students. However, creative writing courses can only be used to satisfy (h) or (w) requirements, or as electives. This minor aims to satisfy student demand for creative writing to constitute a formal part of a degree program.

Creative writing is already an important and high-profile discipline in CLA: the English Department offers an

MFA in Creative Writing (with 30 students currently enrolled), as well as a combined MFA/MA degree (creative writing/literature). The faculty expertise and program-strengthening structures necessary for the MFA will form a solid basis for the minor: the English Department already has the faculty needed to run the minor, hosts the Midnight Sun Visiting Writer Series (which brings high-profile writers to UAF to present their work, provide craft talks, and meet one-on-one with students to discuss their writing), and is home to two creative writing journals: the undergraduate journal, *Ice Box* and the graduate journal, *Permafrost*.

The minor in creative writing will build on an already necessary restructuring of the undergraduate creative writing curriculum. The proposed new curriculum replaces the current three introductory genre-specific courses (ENGL 271/272/273 that focus on fiction, poetry and nonfiction respectively) with a multi-genre introductory course, offering genre-specific courses in fiction, nonfiction and poetry at the 300-level, and offering the existing Topics in Creative Writing as a 400-level course. Such a restructuring makes for a more pedagogically sound curriculum, providing students a suite of courses that starts with the teaching of principles and skills applicable across the genres then progresses towards more advanced study at the 300- and 400-level.

B. PROPOSED MINOR REQUIREMENTS AS THEY WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG:

See samples provided on page 3 of this form.

Complete the following*:

1. ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing: _____ 3 credits
2. Two of the following** : _____ 6 credits
 - ENGL 371: Creative Writing Fiction
 - ENGL 372: Creative Writing Poetry
 - ENGL 373: Creative Writing Nonfiction
3. Two of the following*** : _____ 6 credits
 - ENGL 471: Undergraduate Writers' Workshop (repeatable once for credit)
 - ENGL 473: Topics in Creative Writing (repeatable once for credit)
 - ENGL 488: Dramatic Writing
4. Minimum credits required: 15 credits

*Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.

**ENGL 371, 372, 373 require ENGL 271 as a prerequisite, or instructor permission.

***ENGL 471, 473, 488 require ENGL 371, 372, or 373 as a prerequisite, or instructor permission.

C. ESTIMATED IMPACT

WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, WILL THIS HAVE ON BUDGET, FACILITIES/SPACE, FACULTY, ETC.

We anticipate no negative impact from the creation of a minor in creative writing, nor from the suite of new undergraduate courses associated with it. The minor will entail the offering of current 200-level genre-specific courses at the 300-level (i.e. the current ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction, ENGL 272 Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry and ENGL 273 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction will be replaced by the new course ENGL 271: Introduction to Creative Writing; genre-specific courses will be offered at the 300-level as ENGL 371 Creative Writing: Fiction, ENGL 372 Creative Writing: Poetry, and ENGL 373 Creative Writing: Nonfiction). The minor will also offer the current 300-level course (ENGL 371: Topics in Creative Writing) at the 400-level as ENGL 473. **In total, only one additional course will be added to the number currently offered: the new ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing.** We anticipate that this course will increase enrollment in the newly established 300-level genre-specific courses.

All courses will use existing resources and faculty. We do anticipate an overall increase in enrollment in creative writing courses: our proposal for the minor arises from the great interest amongst undergraduate students, many of whom have expressed dissatisfaction with creative writing courses counting only as electives, or to fulfill (h) or (w) requirements. Many students are already involved in creative writing projects in their own time, projects for which the minor would provide the structure and guidance they are looking for.

D. IMPACTS ON PROGRAMS/DEPTS:

*What programs/departments will be affected by this proposed action?
Include information on the Programs/Departments contacted (e.g., email, memo)*

Departments and programs affected:

1. **English Department:** the English Department already has the faculty with the expertise necessary to offer the courses associated with the proposed minor. The proposed frequency of course offerings will mean that the number of undergraduate creative writing courses offered per year will remain at current levels.

2. **Elementary Education:** elementary education students are required to take:

ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction
or ENGL 272 Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry
or ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing: Non-Fiction
or ENGL 314 Technical Writing
or JRN 311 Magazine Article Writing

The Elementary Education program has been contacted and anticipates no negative impact from the current ENGL 271, ENGL 272 and ENGL 273 being replaced by the new ENGL 271 Introduction to Creative Writing (see email from Carol Barnhardt, Chair of Elementary Education).

F. PERSONNEL DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE MINOR:

List faculty currently teaching the required and elective (if any) courses, with a brief statement of duties and qualifications.

Tenure/tenure-track faculty

- **Gerri Brightwell** (currently Director of Creative Writing): MFA Creative Writing, MA Creative Writing, PhD Literature (areas of specialty: fiction, nonfiction)
- **Derick Burleson:** MFA Creative Writing, PhD Creative Writing (areas of specialty: poetry, nonfiction)
- **Daryl Farmer:** MFA Creative Writing, PhD Creative Writing (areas of specialty: nonfiction, fiction)
- **Len Kamerling:** MFA Creative Writing (areas of specialty: dramatic writing, fiction)
- **Johnny Payne:** MFA Creative Writing, PhD Comparative Literature (areas of specialty: fiction, poetry, dramatic writing)

Current term faculty

- **Sean Hill:** MFA Creative Writing, (areas of specialty: poetry)
- **Kyle Mellen:** MFA Creative Writing, (areas of specialty: fiction)

G. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED MINOR'S OBJECTIVES TO THE "PURPOSES OF THE UNIVERSITY".

Include additional justifying information to support creation of the minor such as projected and present enrollments; need or public demand for the minor; support of other programs by the minor's creation, etc.

Shaping Alaska's Future asserts that to preserve local traditions, UA should position itself as "a major center of culture and the arts in Alaska." By offering a minor in creative writing, UAF will be further aligning itself with this mission, providing a means to nurture artistic talent and foster Alaska's culture in Interior Alaska. Undergraduate students whose passion lies in artistic and cultural expression through writing will be more likely to attend UAF if creative writing is offered as a formal part of their degree; by addressing their interests and providing a formal means to explore them, UAF will be more likely to engage and retain these students. There is existing demand from students for creative writing to form a recognized part of their degree program.

UAF already provides formal study of the arts at the undergraduate level in music, theatre and art. By formalizing creative writing, the arts programs offered at UAF overall will be strengthened.

APPROVALS:

<i>Rich Carr</i>	Date <i>March 6, 2015</i>
Signature, Chair, Program/Department of: <i>English</i>	

DocuSigned by: <i>Rob Duke</i>	Date February 5, 2016
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6E0F8F424F74E3 Signature, Chair, College/School Curriculum Council for:	
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DocuSigned by: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date February 5, 2016
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Signature, Dean, College/School of:	
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ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNANCE OFFICE	
	Date
Signature, Chair, UAF Faculty Senate Curriculum Review Committee	

Final approval will be at the level of the Chancellor or Chancellor's Designee, following vote of approval by the Faculty Senate.

SAMPLE MINOR FOR LAYOUT REFERENCE FROM THE UAF CATALOG:

From the Justice Degree Program:

Dispute Resolution

The minor in Dispute Resolution will provide students with a theoretical background for and practice of alternative dispute resolution. The curriculum will support the developing restorative justice emphasis of the BA of Justice, as well as being applicable to business administration, social work, psychology and counseling contexts.

1. Complete the following:*
 JUST F201--Dispute Resolution and Restorative Practices--3 credits
 JUST F302--Dispute Systems--3 credits
 JUST F403--Law and Science of Arbitration--3 credits
 JUST F405--Clinic in Mediation, Conferencing and Circle Practices--3 credits
2. Complete one of the following:*
 JUST F315--Correctional Counseling and Rehabilitation--3 credits**
 JUST F401--Cross Cultural Conflict Analysis and Intervention--3 credits
3. Minimum credits required--15 credits

Note: 400-level courses require junior standing or instructor permission.

* Students must earn a C- grade or better in each course.

** JUST F315 requires JUST F310 as a prerequisite. For non-Justice majors, taking JUST F401 avoids this extra course.

This sample layout is for your reference and may be deleted from your submitted paperwork.