

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL

ACTION: Approve Addition of Creative Writing Undergraduate Certificate for Peru State College

Per Policy 4200, which requires all new academic programs to be submitted to the Board for approval, Peru State requests approval of the Creative Writing Certificate, beginning Fall 2023.

The System Office and Peru State College recommend approval of the Addition of Creative Writing Undergraduate Certificate for Peru State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- [PSC Creative Writing Undergraduate Certificate \(PDF\)](#)

Peru State College
Proposal to Add Creative Writing Undergraduate Certificate

1. Descriptive Information

A. Name of Institution: Peru State College

Name of Program: Creative Writing Undergraduate Certificate

B. Degrees/credentials to be awarded to graduates of the program:
Creative Writing Certificate

C. Other programs offered in this field by the institution:
English, English Endorsement, Language Arts, Language Arts Endorsement, English minor, Theatre minor, Journalism minor

D. CIP code: 23.0101

E. Administrative units for the program: School of Arts and Sciences

F. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable: Campus

G. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated: Fall 2023

H. Description of Program:

This undergraduate certificate program will prepare students for careers in a variety of writing fields. The certificate will be devoted to the analysis and composition of prose, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Students will develop an appreciation of the various forms of creative expression, while participating in collaborative workshops with their peers. Supplementary attention will be devoted to practical application such as editorial technique and publishing. Additionally, students will develop basic skills in web design and social media content creation.

The program has the following outcomes:

1. Prepare non-teaching English Majors and those outside the major for career opportunities in creative writing, journalism, web content creation, and graduate programs.
2. Provide students an introduction into a variety of forms and genres, and offer avenues for creative expression.

Creative Writing Certificate			Credits
ENG	307	Seminar in the Novel	3
ENG	309	Creative Writing	3
ENG	311	Creative Non-Fiction	3
ENG	313	Introduction to Poetry Writing	3
JOUR	234	Beginning Journalism	3
TOTAL			15 Credits

Course Descriptions: No courses are new

ENG 307 Seminar in the Novel

This course is a study of long-form fiction as it mirrors the cultural concerns of its historical context. The course may focus on specific periods or national traditions, or may engage cross-culturally, or be specifically topic focused.

ENG 309 Creative Writing

This course allows for experimentation with writing poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction in a writing workshop setting.

ENG 311 Creative Non-Fiction

Creative Non-Fiction provides students the opportunity to write an array of personal essays from a variety of perspectives, from early childhood memories to adult reactions to a work of art. English 311 emphasizes effective written communication and the imaginative use of a wide variety of rhetorical tools.

ENG 313 Introduction to Poetry Writing

This course focuses on the reading and writing of poetic texts. The primary emphasis of the course is on poetic craft and structure. As such, students will read a significant amount of poetry in the course and also regularly "workshop" each other's work, giving constructive criticism and suggestions for improvement. By the end of the semester, students will become familiarized with the language of literary craft and will produce a fair amount of work in the genre of poetry.

JOUR 234 Beginning Journalism

The fundamental principles of gathering and writing news: practice in reporting campus news; and work on the Peru State Times, the college newspaper. This course fulfills General Studies requirements for ENG 201, Advanced Composition.

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

The College mission states, "Peru State College provides students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences to strengthen and enrich communities, Nebraska, and the world." The certificate in creative writing will provide a number of "engaging educational experiences" through not only course instruction, but in the practical application of the certificate. Providing students with the instruction and avenue to pursue the publication of and application of the skills learned will undoubtedly "enrich communities, Nebraska, and the world." Writing is a key skill that is taught at the College, so additional programming to further develop this ability is central to the mission of the College.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

A. Need for the program:

Creative writing stresses skills that are integral to a variety of fields such as, but not limited to, website design, travel, food, and fashion writing. These fields are grounded in factual reporting; however, the skills developed in this program will allow writers to enrich their factual reporting with description and a narrative structure. Video game narrative creation is a growing field that demands the writing of multi-layered characters, multiple plots, and world-building. This certificate will provide non-teaching majors interested in pursuing said fields an opportunity to hone their skills and will open up opportunities for graduate school as well.

B. Demand for the Program:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for writers and authors is projected to grow as fast as the average for all other careers. Median pay is \$69,510 per year. The ability to write well is one of the top skills desired by employers in graduates from nearly every field. The College anticipates that students from a variety of majors will elect to complete this program.

4. Adequacy of Resources

A. Faculty and Staff Resources:

The courses required for this certificate are already being offered, and there is capacity to accommodate more students in the existing courses. Current faculty have qualifications to teach these courses.

B. Physical Facilities:

No additional facilities are needed for this program.

C. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:

No additional instructional equipment or resources will be necessary.

D. Budget Projections for the first five years of program:

Since all coursework is already being offered, there is no new expense for the program. There will likely not be much new revenue, since students will use elective credits to complete the coursework. There could be community members or non-degree seeking students who enroll in the program.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

Wayne State College does not offer a major, minor, or certificate/emphasis in Creative Writing. Chadron State College offers an emphasis in Creative Writing. Other institutions offer some form of creative writing credential, including concentrations, minors, or emphasis areas. However, it is not feasible for Peru State students to enroll in those programs due to location and other limitations. The College has offered these courses and the English major for years, so there is not any new duplication with this credential.

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The proposal to add a Creative Writing certificate at Peru State College is consistent with the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education and helps the state advance three major goals: meeting the educational needs of students, meeting the needs of the state, and meeting the needs through exemplary institutions.

The program meets the needs of students by providing them with an additional credential to bolster their job or graduate school application. It will provide a way for them to deepen their writing skills to gain an advantage in their post-graduation options. The program also helps to meet the needs of the state by developing strong writers who will be posed to contribute to the workforce. The ability to communicate and write well is a high priority for employers, so this certificate will contribute to a stronger workforce. The program strengthens Peru State College by formalizing a credential to recognize students who complete coursework in creative writing.