

Department of English and Linguistics

APPLYING FOR THE BFA CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

For In-coming and Transfer Students

Inform the Admissions Office that you want to be a pre-BFA Creative Writing major. Among other things, this will allow them and the English and Linguistics department to know what specific materials to send you about Truman and the department. With the pre-BFA Creative Writing designation you will be able to enroll in BFA classes like ENG 204 Introduction to Creative Writing, the Introduction to Literary Genre sequence, etc.

For Current Truman Students

You can apply to the BFA Creative Writing program in one of two ways.

Track A – ENG 204 and letter. Once you have completed ENG 204 Introduction to Creative Writing and have earned a grade of B or higher, compose and electronically submit a letter of application to the chair of the Department of English and Linguistics (kallerud@truman.edu).

Track B – Portfolio and letter. Examine your creative writing, select your strongest pieces and create a creative writing portfolio. In addition, compose and electronically submit a letter of application and your portfolio to the chair of the Department of English and Linguistics (kallerud@truman.edu).

Note for all Applicants

Because the BFA Creative Writing program was designed and approved by Truman faculty and by the State of Missouri with certain course requirements, you *cannot* double major with a BA English degree and a BFA Creative Writing degree. BS Physics and BFA Creative Writing, great. BA Economics and BFA Creative Writing, fantastic. BA English and BFA Creative Writing, not going to happen.

Application deadlines

Candidates for the BFA Creative Writing program must submit their materials electronically for either Track A -- ENG 204 and letter or Track B – Portfolio and

letter by **25 September** or **25 February**. Late submissions may be held over until the next review period.

Guidelines for the Letter of Application (Track A and Track B)

You might look at the BFA Creative Writing outcomes (see below) as you draft your letter of application.

The BFA faculty will consider the presentation your letter makes of 1) your current skill in writing, 2) your knowledge about writing and 3) your attitudes toward writing.

Your letter of application should:

- Include a heading with your name, Banner ID number, year at Truman (senior, junior, etc.) and current academic advisor.
- Be 500 words maximum (excluding the heading just mentioned)
- Be in 12 point font
- Be submitted electronically (see above) by either 25 September for Fall Semester or 25 February for Spring Semester. Late submissions may be held over for the next round of consideration.

Prompt for your letter of application:

Please reflect on your interest in creative writing and discuss any educational experiences, liberal arts experiences or other relevant writing experiences pertinent to your craft.

Guidelines for the Creative Writing Portfolio (Track B only)

You might look at the BFA Creative Writing outcomes (see below) as you compose your portfolio.

You should prepare your portfolio as though you were submitting it to a magazine for publication or for a writing contest. For sample submission guidelines see:

- *The Chariton Review* <http://tsup.truman.edu/CRsubmissions.asp>
- *Green Hills Literary Lantern* <http://ghll.truman.edu/submissions.html>
- *Windfall* <http://windfall.truman.edu/submissions.html>

The BFA faculty will consider the presentation your letter of application and portfolio make of 1) your current skill in writing, 2) your knowledge about writing and 3) your attitudes toward writing.

Prompt for your portfolio:

Having examined your strongest work, please prepare a portfolio that contains significant work in 1 of the following 5 areas:

- *Poetry/lyrics (3-5 poems or 10 pages maximum)*
- *Essay (5-15 pages maximum)*
- *One complete short story (10-15 pages maximum) or one complete chapter of a novel/graphic novel (10-15 pages maximum)*
- *Play (excerpt of 15 pages maximum)*
- *Screenplay (excerpt of 15 pages maximum)*

BFA Creative Writing Program Outcomes

Upon successfully completing courses approved for Truman's BFA Creative Writing program, graduating seniors will demonstrate these attributes.

Skills

- ability to trace the development of the current literary landscape and contextualize one's work within it
- ability to read both published and unpublished work with care and to be able to articulate one's reading
- ability to practice one's craft in multiple genres, grounded in the study of process employed by successful writers across genres
- ability to employ a writing process that recursively progresses through drafting, peer and instructor feedback, reflection, revising, editing

Knowledge

- studied familiarity with contemporary writing and its literary traditions
- knowledge of the conventions of genres and the history of the development of writers and conventions within genres
- understanding that results from the study of the interrelatedness of literatures across cultures, historical periods, and genres
- knowledge of the conventions of contemporary textual production, including submitting writing to editors, participating in the publishing process, and the professionalization of creative work
- knowledge of literate audiences and how certain genre conventions are most effectively invoked to reach those audiences

Attitudes

- a respect and awareness that arises from a fully-engaged commitment to employing a creative process rooted in textual study
- an informed attention to the various communities within which writing occurs
- a commitment to the preservation and development of literary culture on Truman's campus, in the Kirksville community, and beyond
- a recognition of the long tradition of cross-pollination between the arts