



Creative Writing

Crafting compelling narratives.

At Ringling College, we believe that well-told stories speak truths and communicate ideas. That's why we developed our Creative Writing program—to support, empower, and honor young storytellers, no matter what medium students choose to reach audiences.

Becoming a Creative Writing major means joining a group of writers passionate about developing and sharing compelling narratives. Students benefit from craft instruction from practicing writers/teachers and close interactions with visiting authors, scholars, and publishing professionals. Coursework covers historical, contemporary, and digital literary forms, with a global perspective. Most important, Ringling College students learn by doing. And opportunities to try out a wide range of writing are here from day one.

Graduates of this 120-credit Creative Writing BFA have the technical competence and rhetorical fluency to succeed within all the narrative possibilities that print, film, games, digital media, and new technologies offer. Our graduates are ready to compete in a job market where finely chosen words, engaging stories, and professional conduct will always be in demand.

Visiting Writers Forum

Our students learn about the world of writing and publishing directly from novelists, comic book writers, video game writers, screenwriters, editors, literary agents, and other writing professionals through our monthly on-campus events.

www.visitingwritersforum.com

Visiting Writers and Publishing Professionals

Our industry guests not only headline at the Visiting Writers Forum, but they also present in classes. Here's a sampling from our guestbook:

Kwame Alexander
Writer, *The Crossover*

Robert Olen Butler
Writer, *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*

Delilah Dawson
Writer, *Star Wars: Phasma*

Lucienne Diver
Literary Agent,
The Knight Agency

Ken Hite
Writer, *The Dracula Dossier, Vampire: The Masquerade*

Cheryl Klein
Editorial Director,
Lee & Low Books

Jonathan Maberry
Writer, *V-Wars, Rot & Ruin*

Sandra Markle
Writer, *What If You Had Animal Ears!?*

Aimee Nezhukumatathil
Writer, *World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments*

Alex Rubens
Writer, *Community, The Twilight Zone*

Rob Sanders
Writer, *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*

Ann VanderMeer
Writer, *The Big Book of Science Fiction*

Will Wight
Writer, *the Cradle series*

Jane Yolen
Writer, *Owl Moon, The Devil's Arithmetic*

Career Planning and Preparation

We have a year-by-year set of benchmarks that keep our students on track for success. By year four, for example, we help our seniors to achieve

- a clear, actionable Writing Career Plan
- feedback on their work from a literary agent, editor, producer, or publisher
- two publication credits

Mentoring and Networking

All new Creative Writing majors have a junior or senior mentor to ensure they maximize every opportunity and have a strong support system. Our students also have the opportunity to connect with Ringling College alumni mentors to get extra real-world advice and guidance.



Career Options for Creative Writers

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Biographer | Playwright |
| Columnist | Producer |
| Comic Book Writer | Public Relations Executive |
| Communications Director | Publisher |
| Copyeditor | Reporter |
| Copywriter | Researcher |
| Critic | Screenwriter |
| Editor | Speechwriter |
| Freelance Writer | Tabletop Game Developer |
| Ghostwriter | Teacher |
| Grant Writer | Technical Writer |
| Graphic Novelist | Travel Writer |
| Greeting Card Writer | Video Game Writer |
| Journalist | Writing Coach |
| Literary Agent | |
| Lyricist | |
| Marketing Associate | |
| Medical Writer | |
| Narrative Designer | |
| Nonfiction Writer | |
| Novelist | |

Creative Writing Mission Statement

To educate, empower, and inspire future generations of creative communicators.

Coursework You Choose

Our students design their own paths by choosing from 27 course offerings that include

Audio Storytelling & Podcasting
The Profession of Creative Writing
Screenwriting
Writing Adaptations
Writing Comics & Graphic Narratives
Writing Fantasy

Writing Horror
Writing Picture Books
Writing Science Fiction
Writing for Shared Worlds
Writing for Tabletop Games
Writing for Video Games
Writing for Young Adults

Creative Writing Concentrations

All Creative Writing majors have the option to choose a concentration to focus and further develop their writing pursuits. To earn the distinction, students take three or more classes in one of the following areas and then complete their year-long Senior Capstone project in the same area.

- Scriptwriting
- Game Writing
- Word & Image

Writing Internship

All Creative Writing students have the opportunity to undertake internships anytime after their first year. We believe in the value of real-world, job-related writing so strongly that all creative writing majors must complete one internship for credit or pass CRWR 310 Magazine and Feature Writing.

Shift: A Journal of Literary Oddities

Our students get hands-on experience in editing, designing, and producing *Shift*, a print and digital literary arts magazine that invites submissions from writers and artists throughout the world. <http://ringlingshiftjournal.com/>

Faculty

Ryan G. Van Cleave
 PhD English
 Florida State University

Glenn Schudel
 MFA Shakespeare
 & Performance
 Mary Baldwin University

Sylvia Whitman
 MFA Creative Writing
 University of Virginia

Rick Dakan
 MFA Creative Writing
 Pacific Lutheran University



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