

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4622S  
Date of Senate Approval 3/31/2022

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 41 (ENGL):** **Revise the Major in English requirements for the Creative Writing Concentration**

**Effective Date: Fall 2022**

**1. Delete:** On page 142, under **Major in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing:**

The concentration in Creative Writing offers students the opportunity and incentive to develop their writing in a workshop setting and to support their writing with a strong background in literary studies. The goal of the program is to foster confident undergraduate writers who work with a sound knowledge of their own literary tradition. Students in the program will receive individual assistance in understanding and extending their skills in writing poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and plays. The capstone experience gives students an opportunity to engage in a longer project in which, under the direction of a faculty mentor, they will compose, revise, and polish a substantial piece of original creative writing.

- I. Required courses in the major—44 hours, including: LANG 260, 494; LIT 240, 324, 334, 335; one course from LIT 325, 326, 327 or 330; one course from LIT 328, 329, 346, 363, 364 or 369; and 12 additional hours of creative writing chosen from LANG 361-366. These workshops must be chosen from at least two different genres.
- II. Required courses outside the major—None.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated by successful completion of LANG 494.

**Add:** On page 142, in place of deleted entry:

The concentration in Creative Writing offers students the opportunity and incentive to develop their writing in a workshop setting and to support their writing with a strong background in literary studies. The goal of the program is to foster confident undergraduate writers who work with a sound knowledge of their own literary tradition. Students in the program will learn to write in multiple genres: fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Scaffolded workshops at the 200, 300, and 400 levels will help them hone their craft throughout their undergraduate experience.

- I. Required courses in the major—44 hours, including: LANG 260; two different courses from LANG 361, 363, 365, or 366; two different courses from LANG 460, 487, or 494; LIT 240, 324, 334, 335; one course from LIT 325, 326, 327 or 330; and one course from LIT 328, 329, 346, 363, 364 or 369.
- II. Required courses outside the major—None.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated by successful completion of two 400-level LANG courses.

**2. Delete:** On page 142, under **Creative Writing with Teacher Licensure:**

- I. Required courses in the major—44 hours: LANG 260, 395, 396, 494; LIT 240, 324, 334, 335; one course from LIT 325, 326, 327 or 330; and 8 additional hours of creative writing chosen from LANG 361-366.
- II. Required courses outside the major for 6-9 and 9-12 licensures—4 hours: PSYC 319. Students seeking teacher licensure must also complete the required EDUC courses indicated in the Education section of the catalog and see the appropriate Education advisor.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated by completion of LANG 494.

**Add:** On page 142, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—44 hours: LANG 260, 395, 396; two different courses from LANG 361, 363, 365, or 366; one course from LANG 460, 487, or 494; LIT 240, 324, 334, 335; and one course from LIT 325, 326, 327 or 330.
- II. Required courses outside the major for 6-9 and 9-12 licensures—4 hours: PSYC 319. Students seeking teacher licensure must also complete the required EDUC courses indicated in the Education section of the catalog and see the appropriate Education advisor.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated by completion of one 400-level LANG course.

**Impact:** These changes reflect the effects of our proposed update of the creative writing concentration curriculum (see Appendix 1). At most, this new curriculum entails a single additional course offering annually. We do not anticipate a need for additional English faculty resources because the addition of a second 400-level requirement is being balanced by the cutting of a 300-level requirement. The required number of courses and credits for the students remains unchanged.

**Rationale:** The proposal enhances student choice. Instead of requiring all students to take the same 400-level course, they will now choose which 400-level courses they would like to take. This added flexibility also helps with scheduling and allows our faculty to teach more specialized courses in areas of expertise and interest, e.g., faculty would be able to offer courses in specialized genres and on thematic topics. The menu model for major competency mirrors that instituted by our literature concentration this year. In addition, 487 offers the exciting possibility of being cross-listed with a 400-level LIT course, e.g., LIT 490, so that a course taught on the same topic could be taken by both creative writing and literature majors.

**Overall Impact:** We are proposing to decrease the number of required 300-level workshops from 3 to 2. What was once a third 300-level requirement will become a second 400-level requirement (see Appendix 1). Students will take two different courses from LANG 361-366, and instead of one 400-level LANG course requirement (LANG 494), they will be required to take two. LANG 494 will no longer be a strict requirement but an option among three 400-level offerings: 460, 487, and 494.

This curriculum revision entails a small impact to overall course offerings in the creative writing concentration. In the current curriculum, we offer 17-18 courses a year, including 8-10 300-level workshops. The number varies depending on how many sections of special topics (LANG 374) and fiction writing (LANG 363) we offer. With an increase in creative writing majors, we have been offering one 374 a semester and three sections of 363 annually instead of two. Since 2018, the number of students majoring in English has increased 16% from 90 to 107. At the same time, the number of our minors has increased a whopping 74% from 11 to 43. As of 9/29, the Data Request Portal lists 114 majors, 74 of which are in the creative writing concentration (~65%). The Portal also reveals that 30 of our 43 minors are in creative writing (~70%). Creative writing is fast becoming our most popular concentration.

The new curriculum would require 18-19 annual course offerings. It eliminates the need to offer special topics sections at the 300-level and three sections of 363. Those three saved sections will go to the 400-level courses the new curriculum requires. We already teach 494 twice a year. The plan is to offer 460 and 487 twice a year as well. Potentially, one additional LANG course will need to be staffed. However, it is possible that student demand for 494 makes it an annual instead of biannual offering. Furthermore, LANG 365: Playwriting is currently being staffed by a faculty member outside the department (John Crutchfield from Languages and Literatures). In sum, this proposal does not entail hiring more faculty.

**Rationale:** Creative Writing faculty have long felt dissatisfied with the lack of scaffolding in the curriculum. Students of various skill levels and instructional backgrounds are currently lumped together in 300-level workshops. Many are not prepared for LANG 494. This proposal seeks to correct this imbalance by creating two equal levels of requirements: students must complete LANG 260 before taking two different courses from LANG 361-366, and they must fulfill this 300-level requirement before taking two courses at the 400-level. This beginner-intermediate-advanced staging should better shepherd them through the major. These advanced seminars should better prepare creative writing graduates for a wider range of professional opportunities in the publishing industry. Changes to LANG 494 reflect that it is no longer the sole 400-level course required of majors, but an option among others.

**Appendix 1**

<b><i>CURRENT CURRICULUM</i></b>	<b><i>Freq.</i></b>
<b><i>INTRO:</i></b> <b>LANG 260:</b> Intro to CW	3/sem.
<b><i>GENRE:</i></b> <b>LANG 361:</b> Poetry Workshop <b>LANG 363:</b> Fiction Workshop <b>LANG 365:</b> Playwriting Workshop <b>LANG 366:</b> Creative Nonfiction Workshop <b>LANG 374:</b> Special Topic Workshop  <i>Prereq: LANG 260</i> <i>3 required in at least 2 different genres</i>	1/sem. 1-2/sem. 1/yr. (F) 1/sem. 1/sem.
<b>LANG 494:</b> Senior Seminar	1/sem.
<b>Total Required Courses: 5</b>	17-18 courses/ yr.

<b><i>PROPOSED CURRICULUM</i></b>	<b><i>Freq.</i></b>
<b><i>INTRO:</i></b> <b>LANG 260:</b> Intro to CW	3/sem.
<b><i>GENRE:</i></b> <b>LANG 361:</b> Poetry Workshop <b>LANG 363:</b> Fiction Workshop <b>LANG 365:</b> Playwriting Workshop <b>LANG 366:</b> Creative Nonfiction Workshop  <i>Prereq: LANG 260</i> <i>2 required in 2 different genres</i>	1/sem. 1/sem. 1/yr. (F) 1/sem.
<b><i>SEMINAR:</i></b> <b>LANG 460:</b> Advanced Creative Writing Workshop: <b>LANG 487:</b> Thematic Approaches to Creative Writing: <b>LANG 494:</b> The Creative Writing Professional:  <i>Prereq: 2 300-level courses (361-366)</i> <i>2 different courses required at 400-level</i>	1/sem. 1/sem. 1/sem.
<b>Total Required Courses: 5</b>	19 courses/ yr.