

THESIS AND HONORS FOR ENGLISH MAJORS WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CREATIVE WRITING

I'm curious about the creative thesis. What makes me eligible to write one?

English majors with a concentration in creative writing who wish to write a creative thesis must (a) have an **A- average in the major** as of spring advising week of their junior year, or (b) successfully petition the Creative Writing Committee with a **thesis proposal**.

A thesis proposal will include:

- 1) A sample of outstanding work consisting of 1-2 short stories or short fiction pieces, a 15-page excerpt from a larger work of prose fiction or non-fiction, or 5-10 poems.
- 2) A letter providing **(a) evidence of exemplary work** within the concentration and consistent progress within the major, and **(b) a detailed description of your proposed project**.

All materials must be submitted to the Director of Creative Writing at least **two weeks** in advance of spring advising week of junior year. The Creative Writing Committee will respond to your proposal before registration. Submitting a proposal does not guarantee that you'll be able to undertake a thesis project.

Eligible students will take the **senior thesis colloquium (ENGL 491)** in the fall of senior year and enroll in **ENGL 497 (the senior thesis)** the following spring.

If I am eligible and interested in writing a creative thesis, how long does it need to be?

The creative writing faculty has determined the following page minimums for CW theses; note that these page minimums vary depending on the genre in which the student is writing.

- **Fiction, novella or portion of a novel:** 60 page minimum
- **Fiction, short stories:** must have at least 4 stories, 40 page minimum
- **Memoir:** 60 page minimum
- **Creative Nonfiction:** must have at least 4 essays, 40 page minimum
- **Poetry:** 35 page minimum
- **Screenplays:** 2 acts of a full-length screenplay (60-70 pages) OR 2 short screenplays (40 pages minimum)
- **Plays:** 2 one-act plays (20 pages per play minimum) OR one multi-act play (40 pages minimum)

A creative writing thesis may, based on consultation with your advisor, also include an **introduction or afterword** (1,500 words minimum) in which you consider your work in the context of the wider literary world and account for the aesthetic choices you've made as a writer.

This essay should include consideration of the work of established writers who've influenced your style and the manner in which the work you've undertaken in workshops at Trinity has led you to the shape and scope of your thesis project.

If I choose to write a creative thesis, who will serve as my advisor, and who will evaluate my thesis?

The Director of Creative Writing will, after consulting with potential advisors, assign an **advisor** to each student who plans to write a creative thesis. The director will also appoint a **first and second reader/grader** for each student. Together, these readers will determine a final evaluation for the thesis. Neither reader will be the advisor.

I'm not eligible to write the thesis or not interested in taking on this project. What then?

Students not eligible or interested in writing a creative thesis will take a **senior seminar (ENGL 496)** in fall or spring of their senior year and a **second elective** in spring of their senior year, unless they have already completed their electives.

I'm an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing. How do I qualify for Honors in the major?

To be eligible for honors in the major, creative writing students must complete a creative **thesis** and attain an **A- (or higher) average** in the major, including the thesis grade.