

CREATIVE WRITING: COMMITTEE PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Welcome to the Creative Writing Program. We are glad to know of your interest in the literary arts and look forward to learning more about you.

- ❖ Please note that Creative Writing Program Faculty jointly review all submitted proposals and make committee assignments **only after** meeting as a program. We will make every effort to help you build an appropriate committee. If we cannot staff your Divisional committee, we will work with you and our School Dean to ensure that you have the intellectual and artistic support you need.
- ❖ It is **not** necessary to make an appointment to discuss your work with faculty members prior to submitting your proposal. We review **all** proposals together and do our very best to help each student.
- ❖ Please focus on stating your commitments and hopes as clearly and in as much detail as possible, in writing, using the guidelines below.
- ❖ Please remember to ***upload* the required materials** online (see below). The more information we have about you, the more we are able to make an appropriate committee assignment for you. Your writing samples matter.

For **Div II**, introduce and describe your plan of study and your motivating questions. Div II applicants should be aware that we expect Creative Writing concentrators to take one writing course per semester, and that we also require you to take courses in other disciplines along the way.

For **Div III**, describe your proposed Div III project. Students applying for Div III committee members/chairs should also include a list of relevant courses taken. Please remember that Div III applicants should have taken a *minimum* of three college-level creative writing courses.

Writing the proposal: As long as you are being clear, detailed, and true to your interests, do not worry too much about what should go in what box. It may be best to work on your proposal in a separate document and then paste what you have written in the boxes on the online Committee Request Form. **Your committee member/chair will help you to refine your ideas.** What you write should help us to understand your social and artistic quests, your relationship to the literary arts, and your interests in the world. Your description should clearly identify the subject areas and creative forms you propose to combine. In identifying your 'questions, however, *it is not enough to focus on craft in isolation*. We are interested in the *substance* of your work as well as in the larger concerns that have shaped it.

Consider: What do you hope to discover or explore through your writing? What topics or concerns emerge in the writing you have done? What do you write about? Why do you write/make art? What aspects of the world intrigue, trouble, or excite you? Please include information about any work you are doing in other art forms or disciplines; any languages you speak or have studied; whether you plan to go or have gone on field study; or any CEL-1 or CEL-2 work you've done that has been important to you. Once your committee is formed, of course, your plans may change; we'd simply like to get a solid and thorough idea of where you have been and where you are currently headed.

Uploading your samples: Please provide (1) an example of your creative writing and (2) a critical essay. You can put them both into one document if you like, or upload scanned copies that show instructor comments. The files must be Word or PDF and no larger than 2 MB. **We are interested in your work and the more we know about you, the better.**

Please contact Nell Arnold, Aracelis Girmay, Uzma Khan, Heather Madden, or John Murillo with any questions. Again, you do not need to meet with us prior to submitting your application. Focus on stating your interests and hopes as clearly as you can, in writing. We look forward to reading about your work.