All writing is creative — fiction or fact, prose or poetry, with sight or sound — and words matter. Stories make us human, and studying English with an emphasis in Creative Writing is a way of knowing our stories. Students explore literatures, genres, and cultures through the ages and use that knowledge to enhance their writing.

Opportunities for Students
- **Workshops**: Students work together in small interactive Creative Writing workshops to hone skills in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Advanced workshops are often cross-departmental, featuring topics such as popular song, opera, theatre, fine arts, cinema, and health.

- **Maymester**: Spend part of your summer studying poetry while in Paris or Native-American culture while living on a reservation through this Innovative program.

- **Honors Program**: Departmental Honors are awarded at graduation to seniors who complete a Creative Writing project combined with a critical thesis. This competitive program attracts our very best students.

- **Prizes and Research**: Students often receive cash awards for literary studies, poetry, and fiction entries as well as financial support for independent literary research beyond the classroom.

Notable Courses
- **ENGL 305: Introduction to Nonfiction Writing** — Introduction to the techniques and practice of lyric essay, memoir, personal narrative, and scientific, medical, nature, culinary, and travel writing.

- **ENGL 392: Visual and Popular Culture** — Course in the theory and practices of “popular culture”, highlighting modern and contemporary culture, film, video, and popular music, as well as narrative forms.

- **ENGL 404: Writer in the Community** — Apprenticeship with experienced writer-teachers, providing students with a pedagogical framework and practical experience for teaching creative writing in schools and community settings.

- **ENGL 452: Modern Poetry** — Study of poetry written in English from 1900 to 1945, with special emphasis on American modernists of the first two decades.
CREATIVE WRITING

Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Introductory Requirements
- ENGL 261: English Literature to 1800
- ENGL 262: English Literature since 1800
- ENGL 263: American Literature

Upper Division Requirements*
- Two (2) introductory creative writing workshops in poetry and prose
- One (1) 400-level creative writing workshop in poetry or prose
- One (1) ENGL course in literature written before 1900
- One (1) ENGL course in literature written after 1900
- One (1) elective course
- ENGL 491: Senior Seminar in Literary Studies

Upper Division Courses**
- ENGL 303: Introduction to Fiction Writing
- ENGL 304: Introduction to Poetry Writing
- ENGL 305: Introduction to Nonfiction Writing
- ENGL 350: Literature of California
- ENGL 375: Science Fiction
- ENGL 376: Comics and Graphic Novels
- ENGL 392: Visual and Popular Culture
- ENGL 400: Advance Expository Writing
- ENGL 401: The Rhetoric of Written Composition
- ENGL 455: Contemporary Prose
- ENGL 463: Contemporary Drama
- ENGL 467: The Modern Novel

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/engl/major-after-2012/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.