Creative Writing (HBA)

Department of English

Does your love of literature go beyond scholarship? Are you an aspiring author who wants to add a practical, hands-on component to your education? Then you’ve come to the right place: UTSC is the only U of T campus where you can earn a Major in Creative Writing. Our dedicated faculty take a workshop-based, experiential approach to the study and practice of the literary arts. They also emphasize diversity in both texts and methods. This means that while you learn how classic and contemporary authors pursue their craft, you also take the exciting first steps towards building your own writing practice.

Our Major program places a particular emphasis on professionalization and how to make your way as a writer in the real world. You will also benefit from working with a new Writer-in-Residence each year, and connecting with our close-knit and active creative writing alumni network.

Complementary Programs: You can combine the Major with a huge range of programs in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Sciences.

Make the most of your time at UTSC!

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are listed. In fact, activities such as joining a student club, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study.

Check out future career opportunities and skills acquired from completing this program:

Competencies & Skills

- Produce your own original pieces with confidence
- Gain tools of critique and constructive feedback
- Adjust style, syntax, grammar and vocabulary to rhetorical context
- Identify, examine, and debate strategies and techniques of excellent writers
- Understand and experiment with genre, form, and hybrid modes
- Develop critical thinking
- Engage in creative problem solving

Careers for Graduates

- Author/Writer/Artist in Creative Industries.
- Journalist/Editor/Drama Critic/Film Critic
- Account Manager in Advertising Companies
- Social Media Manager
- Foreign Service Officer in Government
- Public Relations Specialist
- Planner in Think-Tanks
- Technical Writer in Software Developers
- Communications Assistant in School Systems

Further Education

- Creative Writing and other Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Programs
- English
- Journalism
- Education
- Library and Information Science
- Publishing
- Law School
- Public Relations
- Marketing

Connect with Alumni at events on CLNx and through Partners in Leadership, 10,000 Coffees, LinkedIn and more!

For more information go to: uoft.me/alumni-services

NEED HELP CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAM?

See uoft.me/choosing
Creative Writing (HBA)
Major Program Pathway

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM PATHWAY
Read through each year, investigate what appeals to you here and in other Program Pathways that apply to you. Note that this Pathway is only a suggestion. For the most up to date information, please check the UTSC Calendar.

YEAR 1 (0 - 3.5 Credits)

- Take ENGA03H3.
- You may also be interested in ENGA01H3, ENGA10H3 and/or ENGA11H3 as an introduction to the study of English Literature.
- Explore different courses, this will help with fulfilling breadth requirements.
- Use Degree Explorer to plan your courses and program.
- Submit your portfolio at the end of your first year.

YEAR 2 (4 - 8.5 Credits)

- Attend readings by the Writer-in-Residence and other department writing events.
- Schedule an appointment with your Program Librarian for in-depth research assistance with your assignments.
- Get writing support through the CTL Writing Centre.

- Take ENGB60H3, ENGB61H3, and ENGB63H3.
- Use Degree Explorer to plan your courses and program.
- Meet with your Program Advisor or Supervisor to strategize for your degree.

YEAR 3 (9 - 13.5 Credits)

- Consider submitting your writing to our department's Annual English Undergraduate Conference, which showcases creative and critical work.

- Participate in UTSC Reads and Bookchat.
- Further develop your general academic skills by attending workshops offered by the Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) and Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL).

- Explore different courses; this will help with fulfilling breadth requirements.
- Use Degree Explorer to ensure you are on track to graduate.

YEAR 4 or FINAL YEAR (14 - 20 Credits)

- Consider submitting your work to the Sigma Tau Delta International English Conference.
- Apply for an Academic Travel Fund through the DSL to research, present at a conference, or engage with the international academic community.

- Meet one-on-one with the Writer-in-Residence to workshop your writing.
- Check the English department website for writing, publishing, and awards opportunities.

- Attend the UTSC Faculty Mix & Mingle Fair and SELF’s Mix & Mingle events to connect with professors and learn more about their specialties.
- Start building your Co-Curricular Record (CCR) and search for Experiential Learning opportunities.

- Attend the regular meetings of COW, our creative writing club.
- Join the Students of English Literature and Film (SELF).
- Explore other relevant student clubs and activities on campus.
- Volunteer in DSL’s Alternative Reading Week (ARW) program to gain experience and knowledge about social change and community development.

- Participate in SELF by volunteering in their events or running for an executive position.
- Get involved in relevant opportunities on and off campus (e.g., apply to Work Study, or other part-time and summer jobs on CLNx).

- Attend the Graduate & Professional School Fair in September.
- Attend the University of Toronto Scarborough’s (UTSC) Alternative Reading Week (ARW) program to gain experience and knowledge about social change and community development.

- Use Degree Explorer to ensure you are on track with your degree.

- Consider submitting your writing to our department's Annual English Undergraduate Conference, which showcases creative and critical work.

- Participate in the AA&CC’s Partners in Leadership program to learn and network with an alumna mentor about transitioning to work or further education.

- Attend a Jobs for Grads orientation for a job search “crash course” and for access to full-time job listings.
- Attend the AA&CC’s Get HIRED job search conference in April/May.
- Attend a Jobs for Grads orientation for a job search “crash course” and for access to full-time job listings.

- Connect with the Writer-in-Residence and your professors about a career as a writer.
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SERVICES AT UTSC THAT SUPPORT YOU:
To learn about resources and departments that can support you, download the UTSC Student Experience app or visit uoft.me/StARTNow

Diversity & Inclusion
The University of Toronto Scarborough commits to intentionally foster a welcoming and supportive environment for students, faculty, and staff where diversity is valued, and every member of the community feels a sense of belonging on campus.
utsc.utoronto.ca/edo/

Academic Integrity
The university community supports an environment of academic integrity; these are values that include honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Learn about the university's academic rules and how to avoid accidental plagiarism by attending an Academic Integrity Matters (AIM) workshop.
academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/

Healthy Campus
UTSC provides supportive environments, resources and services to empower students to maintain their overall physical and mental health and foster their academic success.

Co-Curricular Record
The co-curricular record is an official institutional document that recognizes your involvement outside the classroom as a significant part of your U of T experience.
clnx.utoronto.ca/CCR

DID YOU KNOW...
The events calendar for the Creative Writing program is one of the most robust and exciting on campus.

FUTURE STUDENTS
For admission requirements to UTSC, check out the U of T Scarborough Viewbook or contact:
Admissions & Student Recruitment
University of Toronto Scarborough
Room HL104, Main Floor, Highland Hall
416-287-7529
admissions@utsc.utoronto.ca

CURRENT STUDENTS
Departmental Contact
Undergraduate Program Coordinator, english-uc@utsc.utoronto.ca
Program Supervisor, Prof. Daniel Tysdal, creative-writing@utsc.utoronto.ca
Creative Writing Librarian
Chad Crichton, ccrichton@utsc.utoronto.ca, 416-287-7492
Academic Advising & Career Centre
Room AC213 | 416-287-7561
Department of Student Life
Room SL157 | 416-208-4760
Students of English Literature and Film (SELF), www.facebook.com/UTSCSELF

Glossary of acronyms:
AA&CC - Academic Advising & Career Centre
ARW - Alternative Reading Week
CLNx - Career & Co-Curricular Learning Network
CCR - Co-Curricular Record
CTL - Centre for Teaching & Learning
DSL - Department of Student Life
ISC - International Student Centre
SELF - Students of English Literature and Film
SCSU - Scarborough Campus Students’ Union

DISCLAIMER: Please refer to the calendar for the most current and accurate information on programs and degrees: utsc.calendar.utoronto.ca