



## **New Minor in Creative Writing**

**RES 252614**

AAC, BPC

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate approves the proposed new Minor in Creative Writing.

**RATIONALE:** The new minor will support CSUB students interested in developing competencies in creative writing and associated careers. The Department of English added three new creative writing courses in Fall 2024 that can be included in the minor. This program will be supported by sufficient resources to ensure its successful future operations.

Attachment: 2025-2026 11\_Proposal for New Minor in Creative Writing

### **Distribution List:**

President  
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs  
VP for Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management  
AVP for Faculty Affairs  
AVP Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs  
College Deans  
Associate Deans  
Dean of Libraries  
Dean of Antelope Valley  
Dean of Extended Education and Global Outreach  
Department Chairs  
General Faculty

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Approved by the Academic Senate:


Sent to the President:

President Approved:



**ACADEMIC SENATE**  
CSU BAKERSFIELD

**2025-2026 REFERRAL #11**  
**Proposal for New Minor in Creative Writing**

**Date:** September 15, 2025  
**From:** Melissa Danforth, Academic Senate Chair   
**To:** Tiffany Tsantsoulas, Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Chair  
Amanda Grombly, Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) Chair  
**cc:** Katherine Van Grinsven, Academic Senate Administrative Analyst

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At their meeting on September 9, the Academic Senate Executive Committee requested that the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) and Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) review and address the Proposal for a New Minor in Creative Writing.

During your discussion, please consider:

- rationale as presented in the attached proposal
- impact on any students in the program.

Please take up this matter with your committee and get back to me with your recommendation. If your recommendation requires Senate action, please prepare a resolution and the rationale for the resolution.

Thank you.

Attachment: ENGL Proposal for Minor in Creative Writing 3-12-2025.pdf

**DR. MELISSA DANFORTH, CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE**

California State University, Bakersfield  
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BAKERSFIELD**

California State University, Bakersfield  
**Academic Operations in Enrollment Systems**  
Mail Stop: EDUC 22, 9001 Stockdale Highway  
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022  
Email: [curriculum@csub.edu](mailto:curriculum@csub.edu)  
Tel. (661) 654-2285

## CHANGES TO PROGRAM FORM

Form Number

### PROPOSAL ACTION (Select One)

**EFFECTIVE CATALOG YEAR: FALL 2026**

- ☐ PROGRAM REVISION    ☐ PROGRAM CANCELLATION  
☐ PROGRAM PLACED IN MORATORIUM    ☐ ADD CONCENTRATION    ☐ ADD EMPHASIS  
☐ ADD OPTION    ☒ ADD MINOR

### PROGRAM OR SCHOOL & DEPARTMENT (Required)

School/Program: College of Arts & Humanities

Department: English

Proposed by: Emerson Case

### RATIONALE FOR DEGREE PROPOSAL (Required):

#### Provide Rationale for Degree Proposal:

In May 2024, the Department of English underwent an external review as part of the five-year University Program Review Committee (UPRC) review process. Our external reviewer, Dr. Dennis Chester, after meeting and consulting with various entities across the campus – including a fairly large cohort of students – recommended that the department first 'develop course offerings in creative writing' and then "consider building a creative writing emphasis within the English Major in Language and Linguistics (EMLL) program or develop a Creative Writing minor." This call was seconded by interim Dean Rodriguez, who felt that "developing new courses and perhaps a new emphasis or minor would help attract students to the English program; a new minor in creative writing would complement – and likely attract – students majoring in degree programs in and outside the School of Arts and Humanities." The Department believes that while the main audience for this minor would be students currently in our English Major in Language and Literature (EMLL) program, the new minor would also be appealing to a new cohort of students interested specifically in careers related to writing, such as authors, editors, screenwriters, and web content specialists.

### DEGREE INFORMATION (MAJOR, CONCENTRATION/EMPHASIS/OPTION/MINOR)

Degree Title:

Minor in Creative Writing

### REVISIONS TO CURRENT DEGREE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

#### Degree Description (Attach or copy catalog copy; Use Track Changes to Add/Revise Details):

Requirements for the Minor in Creative Writing

The minimum requirements for the minor in Creative Writing are:

Four (4) courses in creative writing totaling 12 semester units, at the 2000 level or above, at least three of which must be upper division, from the following:

ENGL 2100 – Introduction to Creative Writing  
ENGL 4100 – Teaching Creative Writing for High School English Language Arts Teachers  
ENGL 4110 – Creative Writing: Poetry  
ENGL 4120 – Creative Writing: Fiction  
ENGL 4130 – Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction  
THTR 3060 – Playwriting  
ENGL 4740 – Editing for Orpheus  
ENGL 4750 – Editing for Calliope

## ADDING AN OPTION, CONCENTRATION OR SPECIAL EMPHASIS (ATTACH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS):

Per [EO 1071](#), before any option, concentration, or special emphasis (or similar subprogram) approved under this delegation, can be implemented, the campus shall obtain a Chancellor's Office confirmation of compliance with CSU policy and applicable law. Campus notifications shall be submitted to the Department of Academic Programs and Faculty Development ([degrees@calstate.edu](mailto:degrees@calstate.edu)). The following information must be submitted:

- The exact title of the new subprogram and the complete degree designation and title of the major degree program housing the new subprogram (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Concentration in Biochemistry);
- A list of courses and required units constituting that new subprogram;
- Total units required to complete the entire degree, including the combination of subprogram and major program;
- The complete list of courses and required units constituting the major degree program as approved by the Chancellor's Office;
- A 4-year major-and-subprogram roadmap for freshmen and a 2-year major-and-subprogram roadmap for transfer students;
- The CSU degree program code (formerly called "HEGIS") that students use to apply to the major degree program;
- The campus-proposed CSU degree program code to be used to report enrollments in the concentration (may be the same as the degree code);
- A detailed cost-recovery budget for self-support subprograms to be offered within state-support major degree programs; and
- Documentation of all campus-required curricular approvals.

## ADDING A MINOR

### Provide the Program Description and Minor Requirements:

Requirements for the Minor in Creative Writing

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ENGL 2100 – Introduction to Creative Writing  
ENGL 4100 – Teaching Creative Writing for High School English Language Arts Teachers  
ENGL 4110 – Creative Writing: Poetry  
ENGL 4120 – Creative Writing: Fiction  
ENGL 4130 – Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction  
THTR 3060 – Playwriting  
ENGL 4740 – Editing for Orpheus  
ENGL 4750 – Editing for Calliope

## IMPACT OF DEGREE PROPOSAL ON OTHER PROGRAMS OR DEPARTMENTS

### What Is the Impact of This Degree Proposal on Course Offerings from Other Department(S) Or Programs?

#### Please Include Supporting Emails with This Proposal:

This degree will not have any impact on other departments or programs.

## IMPACT OF DEGREE PROPOSAL ON COURSE(S)

### List All the New and Revised Courses Required for This Degree Proposal (If Applicable):



**Attach/Submit All the Course Proposal Forms and Catalog Copy Together with This Form for Curricular Review and Approval**

In Fall 2024, the Department of English submitted and had approved three new Creative Writing Courses – ENGL 4110 Creative Writing: Poetry, ENGL 4120 Creative Writing: Fiction, and ENGL 4130 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction.

## NEXT STEPS

- Attach Course Proposal Form(s) to This Proposal (If Applicable)
- Attach Catalog Copy w/ revisions (using track changes) to This Proposal
- Attach Appropriate Documents if Adding an Option, Concentration or Special Emphasis
- Attach Revised Academic Roadmap
- Submit to Department/Program Curriculum Committee for Review & Approval
- Department Submits to School/Program Curriculum Committee for Review & Approval
- School/Program Curriculum Committee Submits Related Forms to GECCo (If Applicable)
- Chancellor's Office (CO) Notification for Implementation of Option, Concentration or Special Emphasis
- If No Additional Approvals Are Required, School/Program Curriculum Committee Submits to Academic Operations After Final Approvals Have Been Recorded. [See Annual Catalog & Curriculum Deadlines Dates](#)

## SCHOOL/PROGRAM COMMITTEE & OTHER APPROVALS:

Department Chair/Program Director: <b>Emerson Case</b>	Date: <b>3/11/2025</b>
School/Program Curriculum Committee Chair:  <small>Matthew Hanne (Mar 25, 2025 13:02 PDT)</small>	Date: Mar 25, 2025
Dean of School:  <small>Alicia Rodriguez (Mar 25, 2025 13:35 PDT)</small>	Date: Mar 25, 2025
Director of GE:	Date:
CO Notification for Implementation of Option, Concentration or Special Emphasis:	Date:
CO Confirmation of Compliance for Options, Concentration or Special Emphasis:	Date:
President's Approval for Minor:	Date:
WSCUC Approval:	Date:
Director of Academic Operations:	Date:

## ACADEMIC OPERATIONS USE ONLY:

Effective Term:	Catalog Year:
CIP Code:	HEGIS Code:
Program Code:	Plan Code:
SubPlan Code:	

## **Request to Create a New Minor in Creative Writing**

The English Department is requesting that the following **new minor** be added to the English Department's offerings:

### **1. Type of Change Requested:**

The Department of English is seeking approval to add a **new minor in Creative Writing** to the English Department's offerings. The new minor would take the following structure (which has been designed to closely follow the structure of our other minors in English literature, Children's literature, and Linguistics):

### **Requirements for the Minor in Creative Writing**

The minimum requirements for the minor in Creative Writing are:

Four (4) courses in creative writing totaling 12 semester units, at the 2000 level or above, at least three of which must be upper division, from the following:

ENGL 2100 – Introduction to Creative Writing  
ENGL 4100 – Teaching Creative Writing for High School English Language Arts Teachers  
ENGL 4110 – Creative Writing: Poetry  
ENGL 4120 – Creative Writing: Fiction  
ENGL 4130 – Creative Writing: Creative Non-Fiction  
THTR 3060 – Playwriting  
ENGL 4740 – Editing for *Orpheus*  
ENGL 4750 – Editing for *Calliope*

### **2. Justification:**

#### **a. Why is the new minor needed?**

In May 2024, the Department of English underwent an external review as part of the five-year University Program Review Committee (UPRC) review process. Our external reviewer, Dr. Dennis Chester, after meeting and consulting with various entities across the campus – including a fairly large cohort of students – recommended that the department first “develop course offerings in creative writing” and then “consider building a creative writing emphasis within the English Major in Language and Linguistics (EMLL) program or develop a Creative Writing minor.” This call was seconded by interim Dean Rodriquez, who felt that “developing new courses and perhaps a new emphasis or minor would help attract students to the English program; a new minor in creative writing would complement – and likely attract – students majoring in degree programs in and outside the School of Arts and Humanities.” The Department believes that while the main audience for this minor would be students currently in our English Major in Language and Literature (EMLL) program, the new minor would also be appealing to a new cohort of students interested specifically in careers related to writing, such as authors, editors, screenwriters, and web content specialists.

In Fall 2024, the Department of English submitted and had approved three new Creative Writing Courses – ENGL 4110 Creative Writing: Poetry, ENGL 4120 Creative Writing: Fiction, and ENGL 4130 Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction. With these courses now added to the list of English courses, we would like to move to the second phase of the process by adding an approved Minor in Creative Writing to our department's offerings.

**b. What resources does the Department have/need to offer the new course, including faculty?**

The department currently has one full-time lecturer, Matt Woodman, who recently received his Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and has been teaching a section of creative writing for the department each year for several years. In his review, Dr. Chester recommends that the department “seek new MFA faculty who can teach students how to write and how to make a living as a writer.” This is a line that the department may pursue in the future, once the new courses are in place and enrollments in the course indicate the need for new faculty.

**c. How does the change affect the existing curriculum?**

Since ENGL 2100, ENGL 4100, ENGL 4740, ENGL 4750, and THTR 3060 are already offered on a regular and consistent basis, the new minor would only marginally affect the existing curriculum. Our current plan is to begin by adding only one of the three new courses (ENGL 4110, ENGL 4120, or ENGL 4130) to the already established schedule each year, with the understanding that we may add further sections in the future if warranted by increased enrollments.



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BAKERSFIELD**

Department of English

March 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On November 15, 2024, the Department of English unanimously approved adding a **Minor in Creative Writing** to the English Department's offerings.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emerson D. Case".

Emerson D. Case, Ph.D. | Professor/Chair  
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Bakersfield, CA 93311  
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**School of Arts and Humanities - Department of English**

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