

**University of Colorado
Undergraduate Creative Writing Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

How do I apply?

Applications to the CU Undergraduate Creative Writing program are available online at http://www.colorado.edu/English/academic_programs/crw/cwapp06.htm, or in Hellems 111. You'll need to submit **two copies** of your manuscript (7 poems or 20 pages of fiction) along with the application.

What are the prerequisites for applying?

Students must have completed at least 6 hours of writing with the program before being considered (3 hours may be transferred in).

When can I apply?

Applications are usually accepted between September 1st and November 15th for the Fall semester and February 1st and April 1st in the Spring.

How many students per year do you accept? Is there a quota?

We accept as many students as show the necessary promise and talent. There is not a quota or limit now, nor has there ever been.

What happens to my application after I submit it?

Your application is distributed to two members to the Creative Writing faculty, without regard to genre (fiction writers read poetry and visa versa). If you receive two 'yes' votes your application has been accepted. If you receive two 'no' votes your application has been rejected. If you receive a split vote, your application is then forwarded to a third reader for the tie-breaker. Once the votes are tabulated, you are notified.

What are you looking for in the submission?

This is a hard question to answer. We're interested in writing that avoids clichés, shows engagement with and interest in language, and demonstrates at least some familiarity with one or more literary traditions. What we are NOT looking for are song lyrics, roommate stories, and unmediated, unself-conscious writing about how wonderful/horrible your girlfriend/boyfriend is. In deciding what writing to submit, the most important question is: is the writing at all cliché? If it is, rewrite it or submit something else.

I'm interested in both poetry and fiction. Can I submit both?

It's not a good idea.

My application was rejected. Can I get some feedback on it?

You may make an appointment with the director, and he or she may relay the comments of the readers.

Can I get feedback on my application before I submit it? Can someone read it over and tell me if I'm on the right track?

Your current Creative Writing Instructor is probably the best resource for this. But any "pre-application" advice should be taken with a grain of salt, as is probably won't be coming from the readers of your actual application.

My application was rejected. Can I resubmit?

You may submit twice. It is important not to reapply too early. You'll want to think about how to make your writing better. If you resubmit too early, you're likely to get rejected again. You may only apply on time per semester.

I received good grades in 1191 and 2051, but my manuscript was rejected. What gives?

Our graduate instructors are sometimes not as tough as they need to be with grading. The quality of your writing is weighted much more heavily than your grades.

Is it important how my manuscript looks?

More important than you probably think. You want to make a good impression and so should present your writing as professionally as possible. All fiction should be double-spaced, and printed on one side of the page only. Poetry should not be cramped: one poem per page. Printing and photocopying should be clear and neat. *All writing should be thoroughly copy-edited, with meticulous attention paid to spelling and grammar.*

Is there anyway else I can take Creative Writing Workshops?

You can obtain instructor consent for individual workshops. See:

http://www.colorado.edu/English/academic_programs/crw/consent.htm

When in my college career can I apply?

Theoretically, you could apply at the end of your freshman year (assuming the 2nd Creative Writing course was in progress) and as late as before the beginning of your senior year (assuming you'd taken Creative Writing workshops, see above). However, neither extreme is recommended.