

## BFA in Creative Writing 4-year Plan

*The following plan is SUGGESTED for students who come to Chapman with no transfer credits, so adjust this plan to your particular situation, depending on your choice of minor themed inquiry, second major, or if you are in the honors program.*

### Year 1: (30 credits)

Focus on the core 200-level classes in the major, and balance with General Education needs. Depending on the transfer credits you may have brought in for GE, you should be taking 3-5 major courses in your first year.

- **Core Classes in the Major:** Take **ENG 204** in your first semester if possible (though it is offered every semester); **ENG 223: Literature III**; **ENG 256: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism**; one of **ENG 221: Literature I**, **ENG 222: Literature II**, **ENG 223: Literature III**, or **ENG 270: Foundations of Rhetorical Studies**; one of **ENG 250: Introduction to Fiction** or **ENG 252: Introduction to Poetry**.
- **General Education (GE)**
  - Take **FFC (First-year Focus Course)**
  - Take **1 or 2 Global Focus** courses, which includes a **language course** other than English at the 200-level. (You may need to take 100-level courses in that language first); **\*caveat—if you plan on studying abroad, save your two GS requirements for that**
  - Take **1 or 2 Liberal Arts and Sciences Focus Courses** you have not fulfilled (artistic, natural science, quantitative, social, values and ethics, and written inquiry)
    - You can share up to 3 major courses with your GE, so pay attention to the GE categories that certain courses have been assigned—typically Artistic Inquiry (ENG 204 covers that), and for select Literature and Rhetoric courses, Social Inquiry, Global Studies, or Values and Ethical Inquiry; the Diversity requirement, for example, has multiple courses with GE designations.
  - Take a **1 or 2 Exploration Focus** courses, which is fulfilled by a second major, a minor, the honors program, or a themed inquiry

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

YEAR 1 FALL	YEAR 1 SPRING
ENG 204	ENG 256
ENG 221, 222, or 270	ENG 223; or ENG 250 or 252
FFC 100	Language course 102
Language course 101	GE course
GE Course	GE course

## Year 2: (30 Credits)

Begin to dive into the creative writing electives, take a Topics in Creative Writing class (304), and balance with literature and rhetoric courses for a recommended 5-7 major classes in the year. Make sure you are paying attention to the different categories in the program and balancing your choices between those categories, fulfilling the core requirements as well as the elective categories in Literature/Rhetoric and Elective Practice. Balance major courses with GE and your Exploration Focus (second major, minor, honors, or themed inquiry).

- Complete the **200-level** core classes you did not take first year: one of **ENG 221, 222, or 270**, one of ENG 250 or 252; and ENG 256
- Take **ENG 304**: Topics in Creative Writing
- Take 1-2 courses from the **Creative Writing Electives category (CWE)**
- Take 1-3 courses from the Diversity, Literature/Rhetoric Elective (LRE), and Elective Practice (EP) categories
- Take 3 or 4 more courses to fulfil the various **General Education** requirements
  - You can share up to 3 major courses with your GE, so pay attention to the GE categories that certain courses have been assigned—typically Artistic Inquiry (ENG 204 covers that), and for select Literature and Rhetoric courses, Social Inquiry, Global Studies, or Values and Ethical Inquiry; the Diversity requirement, for example, has multiple courses with GE designations.
- Take 2 or 3 courses in your **Exploration Focus** (second major, minor, honors, themed inquiry). *You must declare this exploration focus before you complete 60 credits, so probably early in your second year.*

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

YEAR 2 FALL	YEAR 2 SPRING
ENG 221/222/270/250/252	CWE
ENG 304	Diversity, LRE, or EP
Diversity, LRE, or EP	Diversity, LRE, or EP
Language course 201 or GE course	GE course / Exploration Focus
GE course / Exploration Focus	GE course / Exploration Focus

## Year 3: (30 Credits)

Continue to balance those creative writing, lit/rhetoric, and practice electives, but also begin to take the upper-division core courses: the Techniques course (403 or 404), and at least one Advanced Workshop in Creative Writing (405, 406, or 419). Since you need

three Adv. Workshops (any combination of the course numbers listed above), it's essential to start those workshops in your junior year. We recommend again taking 5-7 classes from the major. Any remaining GEs should be finished this year, and you should be well-into your minor.

- Complete as much of the GE as possible in the fall
- Take 1-2 courses from the **Creative Writing Electives category**
- Take 1-3 courses from the Diversity, Literature/Rhetoric Elective, and Elective Practice categories
- Take **ENG 403/404**: Techniques of Poetry or Fiction
- Take one Advanced Workshop in Creative Writing (**405, 406, or 419**).
- Continue to take 2-3 courses in your **Exploration Focus** (second major, minor, honors, themed inquiry)
- **Internship**: consider doing an internship for credit this year, or in the summer. Depending on the internship, the program director can make a substitute for one of the Elective categories.

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

YEAR 3 FALL	YEAR 3 SPRING
CWE	CWE, LRE, EP (whatever is remaining)
LRE	ENG 403/404
EP	ENG 405/406/419
GE course / Exploration Focus	GE course / Exploration Focus
GE course / Exploration Focus	GE course / Exploration Focus

### Year 4: (30 Credits)

Your **fourth year** will be the year in which you are dedicating your time to your capstone portfolio. You'll finish up any remaining requirements in the various elective categories, take your Adv. Workshops, and take the Capstone in Creative Writing. We recommend that the work you do in this final year be intimately connected to the portfolio of writing you are producing for the capstone. Hopefully you've prepared well and only have 5 courses left in the major, though double-majors, double-minors, students who study abroad, etc. may have additional, which is fine too. Just be very careful to ensure you've completed or will complete every requirement to graduate. If you have courses remaining in your minor, you would finish those.

- Take your remaining two Advanced Workshops in Creative Writing
- Finish up any remaining major electives: CWE, Diversity, LRE, and EP
- Take **ENG 497**: Capstone in Creative Writing, offered both Fall and Spring

- **Internship:** consider doing an internship for credit this year, or in the summer. Depending on the internship, the program director can make a substitute for one of the Elective categories.

### SAMPLE SCHEDULE

YEAR 4 FALL	YEAR 4 SPRING
ENG 405/406/419	ENG 497
CWE/LRE/EP	CWE/LRE/EP
Second major, minor, honors, etc.	Second major, minor, honors, etc.
Second major, minor, honors, etc.	Second major, minor, honors, etc.
Second major, minor, honors, etc.	Second major, minor, honors, etc.

#### Important notes:

- **Upper Division:** a minimum of 21 upper division credits (300- and 400-level) must be taken in the major.
- **GPA Check:** a minimum 2.0 major GPA and a minimum 2.0 upper division GPA are required.
- **Shared Credits:** You may share credits between GE requirements and the BA in English requirements in the following ways:
  1. Up to 9 credits in the English major with GE Liberal Arts and Sciences Focus and Global Focus courses, even if they are not being used in the major.
  2. Up to 6 credits from a minor. Courses in the minor's primary discipline are included in this limit even if they are not being used in the minor.
- **Language:** You must take a **200-level language to receive the GE credit**. There are possible hidden credits here depending on your competency in the language you are studying. You can test into a 201 language course through AP exam scores or a test taken through the Department of World Languages, but more likely you will need to take the three-course sequence: 101, 102, 201. Plan accordingly, and try to take these courses early and in sequential semesters.
- **Study Abroad:** a semester abroad can be an amazing experience, but try to find a program that has courses that will fulfil your requirements.
- **Internships:** internships are particularly important for English majors to help them experience the various opportunities for using their skills of writing, editing, and textual analysis. Internships can be substituted for some of the electives, depending on the duties and scope of the internship. Remember that some internships will require commuting to cities fairly far from Chapman, like Los Angeles, and can take up quite a bit of time, so make sure that you are considering how that balances with your other coursework.

- **Course load:** remember that the threshold for graduating is 120 credits, regardless of majors and minors. This comes out to an average of 5 classes a semester. If you are double-majoring, or double minoring, you could easily go above 120 credits. Keep this in mind if you have a semester where you only take 4 classes; you'll need to make those credits up somewhere, either in Interterm or by taking 6 classes (18 credits) during a different semester.