

## Identification

- English Creative Writing Minor, Department of English and Foreign Languages, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Colorado State University-Pueblo
- Developed by: Katherine Frank, Chairperson of English and Foreign Languages and Juan Morales, Coordinator of Creative Writing
- May 2010
- Primary contact for assessment: Katherine Frank, Chairperson of English and Foreign Languages

## Mission, goals and student learning outcomes

- Program mission and linkages to department and university mission:

The Creative Writing Minor is designed for students interested in pursuing an MFA in creative writing or students who intend to continue their creative activity after graduation. Since MFA degrees specialize in poetry, playwriting, creative nonfiction, or fiction, students will complete 21 credits of coursework concentrating on one genre while also establishing knowledge of the creative writing workshop, the drafting/revision process, and the business of writing.

- Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates a working vocabulary for critical analysis through theoretical venues as well as in-depth study of terminology and form within creative works to develop strong critiquing skills in the workshop environment.

2. Produces writing competitive at a publishable level, which reflects an understanding of the creative writing genres, the business of writing, and the drafting and revision process for individual and collections of works.

- Additional Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates knowledge of significant traditions, historical and cultural contexts, and current issues in literature and language studies.

2. Conducts, analyzes, evaluates, and integrates academic research.

3. Understands and applies strategies of critical theory.

4. Analyzes literature and synthesizes ideas with clarity, accuracy, and coherence in speech and writing

5. Understands and writes using a variety of literary genres.

6. Constructs an original and convincing argument using a range of rhetorical strategies in speech and writing.

7. Develops general communication and learning skills and understands the value of ongoing critical reading, thinking, and writing.

- Performance criteria:
- Performance level: Creative writing manuscripts (written in the students' genre of emphasis) for English 414 are collected and scored holistically by the Coordinator of Creative Writing. Each manuscript is evaluated keyed to the stated English Creative Writing Emphasis SLOs. A score of 2.5 or above indicates satisfactory achievement. A score of 3.5 or above indicates outstanding achievement.
- Learning outcomes are currently listed in the course catalogue; developed by department faculty; and communicated to students in courses.

## **Curriculum**

- The courses and their objectives, in aggregate, meet the outcomes for the program.
- The curriculum provides opportunities for students to demonstrate they have learned the program outcomes (informal and formal writing, independent and group projects, exams, service-learning projects, capstone seminar projects).

## **Assessment methods**

- Assessment Methods:
  1. Regular review of department syllabi and requirements.
  2. Questionnaires administered to graduating seniors annually.
  3. Development and evaluation of capstone creative writing manuscripts against a grid of rubrics reflecting program goals, conducted by the Coordinator of Creative Writing and a committee of faculty members and reported to faculty and administration.
  4. Development and implementation of a questionnaire to graduates of the minor, responses compiled and reported to faculty and administration by the Coordinator of Creative Writing to the Chair of English and Foreign Languages.
- Program Review (2010-2011):
  1. Thorough assessment of program using methods described above and department sub-committee work.
  2. Development of a complete curriculum map that aligns course curricula with student learning outcomes and identifies assessment measures.
  3. Identification of areas of success and needs.
  4. Identification of next steps and five-year goals.
- Faculty are responsible for assessing student learning in individual courses.
- Students assess teaching and learning at the conclusion of each course.

## **Assessment results**

- The Coordinator of Creative Writing, under the guidance of the Chairperson of English and Foreign Languages, generates an annual assessment report that is distributed to the faculty.
- Following the program's next five-year review (2010-2011), the program will consider report more carefully each year and apply relevant changes.
- The program faculty considers data in light of intersections between program goals and the University's Strategic Plan.
- The program faculty will meet following the five-year review to generate plans for ongoing assessment and improved inclusion of all stakeholders.

### **Continuous processes**

- Annual Update Measures: Annual assessment report, university reporting cycle, scheduled faculty meetings.
- Responsible Parties for Assessment, Implementation, and Follow-Up: Department chairperson and faculty.