



— SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF —  
CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

— LIVE YOUR PASSION! —

# CREATIVE WRITING DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

2425 Dusk Drive, San Diego California 92139  
[www.sandiegounified.org/scpa](http://www.sandiegounified.org/scpa)

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# San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts

## Guiding Principles

### Vision Statement

The Creative Writing Department of the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts is dedicated to providing a broad education that challenges the students artistically and intellectually to prepare students for college, conservatory and professional careers in published writing, journalistic pursuits, and related professions.

### Mission Statement

The San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts commits to:

- A rigorous scope and sequence in the arts and academics
- Experiences with professional artists and scholars
- An evolving and innovative framework of high standards in arts-integrated teaching and learning
- Ample opportunities for innovation, creativity, and critical thinking
- A diverse, safe, and supportive environment to unlock the potential of scholars as artists

### Schoolwide Learning Objectives

Each SLO clarifies for the entire school community what students will know, understand and be able to do when they graduate from high school (i.e., a citizen who learns, thinks and communicates with confidence). The SLOs guide policies, procedures, and standards-based curricula that align with these SLOs:

- **SCHOLAR:** An SD SCPA scholar is a critical and creative thinker with a deep-rooted passion for lifelong learning and discovery.
- **CITIZEN:** An SD SCPA citizen is actively involved in developing an environment that is welcoming, engaging, and inclusive of a highly diverse community.
- **PROFESSIONAL:** An SD SCPA professional strives toward excellence in preparation for success in college, career, and life.
- **ARTIST:** An SD SCPA artist is a courageous, self-disciplined individual with a continuous desire to create authentic works of art.

# **Creative Writing Major**

## **Philosophy**

The Creative Writing major will be a nationally recognized program that nurtures the natural talent of aspiring writers. Students will analyze great writers—past and present—and experiment and refine their own voice and craft in the areas of poetry, short stories, memoirs, script writing, essays, and journalism. In addition, students will design, manage, and publish the school newspaper, the annual school-wide anthology, literary magazines, and their own personal anthology. The Creative Writing major will unite talented, published authors with students in order to inspire and challenge developing creative writing artists who are highly desired and sought after by writing colleges and universities.

## **Mission**

To prepare aspiring writers to enter competitive college and university writing programs and/or writing careers.

## **Objectives**

- Analyze model authors for style and strategy
- Introduce and nurture students' writing across forms and genres: prose, poetry, scriptwriting, and journalistic
- Enhance voice in writing
- Develop discipline and technique in writing
- Hone the eye of a writer through critical revision and editing
- Acquire ability to critique work with compassion and respect and accept criticism with humility
- Increase knowledge about publishing, including layout and design of printed work
- Nurture relationships with professionals in the writing field

## **Expectations**

- Demonstrate discipline and consistency in writing
- Develop potential in all areas of writing: creative, journalistic, and academic
- Demonstrate respect for others through professional interactions
- Accept criticism with professional humility
- Embrace risk-taking and build self-confidence in writing abilities
- Think and write deeply and richly about a variety of subjects
- Explore and analyze exemplary authors with a critical lens
- Engage in creative writing opportunities inside and outside of the classroom

## Course Scope and Sequence

Year One (Freshman)	Year Two (Sophomore)	Year Three (Junior)	Year Four (Senior)
Creative Writing 1,2	Creative Writing 3,4	Creative Writing 5,6	Creative Writing 7,8
Journalism 1,2	Journalism 3,4		
		Journalism 5,6	
		UC/CSU "f" course that supports Creative Writing	

## Course Descriptions

### Creative Writing 1,2

Students study building blocks of style and voice necessary for effective writing. They will read and write a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and dramatic works. Students will workshop pieces and, based on feedback, revise and edit pieces to improve style and voice. Students will also keep a writer's notebook and engage in writing exercises to hone style and composition skills. Students are expected to begin and maintain a Creative Writing Portfolio of their written work. Students will also share work at a performance venue.

*Incoming Freshman Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course.*

### Creative Writing 3,4

Students focus more intensively on fiction and non-fiction. Longer and more challenging fiction and non-fiction works are read, analyzed, and discussed. Students also produce several samples of fiction and non-fiction work, including essays, autobiographical incidents, flash fiction, and short stories. Students will workshop pieces and, based on feedback, revise and edit pieces to improve style and voice. Students will also keep a writer's notebook and engage in writing exercises to hone style and composition skills. Students will also share work at a performance venue. Students are expected to continue to maintain their Creative Writing portfolio. Students will also share work at a performance venue.

*Sophomore Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course.*

### Creative Writing 5,6

Students focus more intensively on poetry and scriptwriting. Longer and more challenging poetry and dramatic/film works are read, analyzed, and discussed. Students also produce several samples of poetry and script, including haiku, ballads, sonnets, free-verse, scenes, and one-acts or short films. Students will workshop pieces and, based on feedback, revise and edit pieces to improve style and voice. Students will also keep a writer's notebook and engage in writing exercises to hone style and composition skills. Students will also share work at a performance venue. Students are expected to continue to maintain their Creative Writing portfolio. Students will also share work at a performance venue.

*Junior Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course.*

### Creative Writing 7.8

Students focus intensively on transforming writing pieces into digital and print publications. Students produce a form or theme-based anthology of approximately twenty to thirty pieces of their own works. They will write, workshop, revise, and edit new and old pieces. Students complete an author study each semester examining an author's style, voice, and influence. Students will also engage in an internship with one of the following: *SCPA Today*, Yearbook, *Inscribe*, or Literary Magazine. Students will also finalize their Creative Writing Portfolio of their written work by examining and writing about their growth as a writer, struggles and successes, strengths and weaknesses, and further aims in the area of Creative Writing. Students will also share work at a performance venue.

*Senior Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course and is only open for seniors in the Creative Writing Major.*

### Journalism 1.2

Students are introduced to the basic techniques and skills of journalistic writing. They will learn the format and structure of articles, such as headline, subhead, lead, and inverted pyramid. Students will learn the components of both news and feature articles. Students will read digital and print news media and study components. In addition, they will write, peer critique, revise, and edit a variety of articles. Finally, students will learn how to investigate topics, complete interviews, and learn about the value of freedom of the press and informed citizens. Students will begin to work with newspaper staff on *The Production*, publication.

*Freshman Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course.*

### Journalism 3.4

Students continue to hone skills introduced in Journalism 1,2. Journalism 3,4 becomes the staff of *The Production*, the student newspaper, and will produce, edit, and publish articles for the newspaper. Students will also learn about the key positions of a newspaper staff: editor-in-chief, copy editor, advertising and business manager, managing editor, page editors, and columnists. Students will produce regular online editions of *The Production*.

*Sophomore (or Junior if Sophomore year is impacted) Creative Writing Majors are required to take this course.*

### Journalism 5.6

Students continue more in-depth studies of news techniques and stories beyond basic news. Students lead the staff of *The Production*. Students are responsible for the publication and promotion of a professional-quality school paper.

*Creative Writing Majors who have completed Journalism 1,2 and 3,4 are required to take this course and is only open for students in the Creative Writing Major.*

### UC/CSU “F” Course that supports Creative Writing Major

All creative writing majors must take a course that satisfies their UC/CSU “F” requirement. Courses in Creative Writing are not considered “visual and performing arts” courses (dance, music, theater, or visual arts--e.g., painting, web/graphic design, film/video, inter/multimedia arts). Students are strongly suggested to take one of the following to support understandings for scriptwriting (theater and video courses) or publication (art courses). Students may elect to take another approved “F” course instead of the following to satisfy graduation requirements.

#### Approved “F” courses to support Storytelling

- Theater 1,2
- Technical Theater 1,2
- Video 1,2

#### Approved “F” courses to support Publication

- Art 1,2
- Photography 1,2
- Digital Art & Mixed Media 1,2

### **Publication and Exhibition Opportunities**

- Submit material and publish SDSCPA’s school wide art and writing anthology, *Inscribe*.
- Submit material for and publish SDSCPA’s newspaper, *The Production*.
- Submit material for and publish SDSCPA’s bi-annual literary magazine, *Lyrical*.
- Share work during SDSCPA ASB’s *Coffee House*.
- Display work at exhibitions and on campus.
- Collaborative projects with various other art departments.
- Students write and present imitations as part of the Visiting Writers’ Series.
- Attend community writing events, like open mic-nights.
- Submit work to various local, state, and national writing contests.
- Participate in summer camps, workshops, or conferences during the school year or summer. Many programs have financial aid available.