

CREATIVE WRITING HONORS THESIS
English 483, 484 Honors Thesis in Creative Writing

PROPOSAL DEADLINES:
October 31 (for SPRING EN484)
& April 15 (for FALL EN483)

The Program in Creative Writing offers students an opportunity to apply for a four-credit course, EN483 in the fall or EN484 in the spring, to students who are majoring in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing. Enrolling in EN483 /484 is the only way to earn honors in Creative Writing. Colby bases Latin Honors and Distinction in the Major on grade averages rather than the completion of a certain kind and amount of independent work.

N.B. It is possible that not all proposals will be accepted. This is a competitive process, and the Creative Faculty are limited in how many Theses we can accommodate.

ELIGIBILITY FOR HONORS THESIS:

- Major in English with Concentration in Creative Writing
 - Have a **3.5** overall GPA and a **3.5** in the major at the end of the junior year
 - Completed EN378, EN379, or EN380 with a grade of A- or **better in the semester before** the Thesis project begins.
- * Exceptions to these requirements will be considered on an individual basis

CREATIVE MANUSCRIPT LENGTH & GRADE REQUIREMENTS:

All work should be polished and demonstrate creativity, independence, originality, and thoroughness. Complete manuscripts should include

- Poetry: 20 to 30 pages
- Prose: 60 to 70 pages
- Hybrid: 30-50
- B+ or higher is necessary for the thesis project to be considered an Honors Thesis; otherwise, the course is converted to an Independent Study.

You also must participate in readings at the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium or another Creative Writing-sponsored event.

CREATIVE WRITING HONORS THESIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Organize your honors thesis proposal with the following guidelines and headings for each section. The proposal is to be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, and please conform to MLA style format. Applications that do not adhere to this format will be returned.

1. Proposed Project Title:

2. Your Name:

3. Project Description (500 words, maximum)

Describe the project itself—your motivations and goal as well as a general sense of what you want the final product to look like. Think about what artists and writers have inspired or influenced you. Will your project engage, address, challenge, or expand on a particular way of thinking about the literary tradition? What artistic, literary, and/or social movements—currently and historically, and ideally from more than one cultural perspective—does your project engage?

What other academic disciplines, cultural phenomena, or art practices inform it, if any?

4. Relevant Preparations: Coursework and Writing/Research (100 words)

Articulate how your honors thesis will function as a capstone for your work in English and Creative Writing by explaining how your coursework has prepared you for this project. You should not only refer to the specific pre-requisites listed above, but also name courses you've taken that introduced you to the topic and/or method your honors thesis project will pursue. In addition, describe any previous writing and/or research you have done that will form a foundation for your creative writing manuscript.

5. Timeline (200 words)

Create a clear timeline, organized by the number of weeks in a semester, outlining your plan for researching, structuring, drafting, revising, editing, and finalizing your honors thesis project. This timeline should include meetings with your thesis advisor and proposed due dates for submitting drafts throughout the semester.

Here are key dates to remember: No later than the week prior to the last day of classes, you must submit a final draft of the finished work to your thesis advisor. The last day of classes, an error-free, polished manuscript is submitted to your thesis instructor and second reader.

6. Questions and Concerns (100 words)

Discuss questions and concerns, related to the research and writing of your honors thesis project, that you have.

7. Annotated Bibliography (5-8 sources)

These sources can include writers you want to read or who have influenced your work; poetry and prose that serve as models for your project; books/essays on craft and form; publications you've read in workshops or other courses that have inspired your project idea. In two-to-three sentence annotations for each entry, describe the source and indicate how it informs your creative writing honors thesis project.

8. Writing Sample

Submit a writing sample that reflects the writing you will do for your honors thesis project. Enclose three to five poems, a complete short story, or a complete essay with your application.

Preference for Thesis Advisor

Only Creative Writing faculty can serve as your thesis advisor.

In 75 words or fewer, state why you want to work with this faculty member as your thesis advisor. How will his/her expertise help you develop your project?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Second Reader

The role of the second reader will be worked out by your advisor, in consultation with you. The second reader may become involved early in the project, or late, but you must designate a second reader when you register for the Thesis.

Updated: April 4, 2024