

Not every creative writing student wants or needs an MFA degree. At East Carolina University, we recognize that many students prefer an engagement with writing that allows for a more varied set of career possibilities. Ours is a flexible creative writing program geared toward the individual student and his or her specific needs. The MA with a concentration in Creative Writing is designed for students who want to continue their study with an MFA, DFA, or PhD; who wish to become qualified to teach creative writing and/or English at the community college level; or who simply wish to better their creative writing skills. The Master's Degree in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing is an advanced degree with a specialty in the writing of original poetry, fiction,

scripts and plays, or creative nonfiction. Because ours is a studio writing program, primary emphasis is on the student's writing experience: students are encouraged to take the writing workshop in their genre of study as many as three times for credit. The program is designed according to guidelines established by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, which is the primary source for information and guidelines for creative writing programs in English. Abiding by AWP's principles, instruction in the Creative Writing concentration is only offered face-to-face. The study of contemporary literature and the forms, craft, themes, and aesthetics of writing are incorporated into the workshops and also explored in separate seminars.

**FLEXIBLE  
CREATIVE WRITING  
PROGRAM**

**FOCUS ON  
WRITING  
EXPERIENCE**

  
**East Carolina**  
UNIVERSITY  
Department of English  
Bate 2201  
Mail Stop XXX  
East Carolina Univeristy  
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252-328-6041

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**East Carolina**  
UNIVERSITY

**Creative Writing Program**

**Tomorrow starts here.**

## Program Requirements

In order to earn the master of arts degree, students in the Creative Writing Program must complete the following requirements:

- Complete **at least 33 semester hours**—All courses are for 3 semester hours.
  - At least 18 hours must be in the Creative Writing concentration
  - A maximum of 12 hours of workshop classes, which are offered in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, screenplay and playwriting
- Take a **Research Skills course**—We recommend one especially developed for our students, **Research for Creative Writers, which focuses on the uses of research in creating original literature.**
- Write a **thesis**—The capstone experience for most students is the writing of a thesis, which is a **collection of original literature** composed in the student's primary genre of study.



## Admission

To apply, you must submit a **portfolio of original creative writing**. Depending on which genre you plan to study, your portfolio should be 10-12 pages of poetry, 20-30 pages of fiction or nonfiction (preferably two different pieces), or two or three scenes from a play or screenplay. **Submit three copies of each work with a brief cover letter applying for admission.** Include your name, mailing address, email, and telephone number(s), and specify for which genre or genres you are applying. Your portfolio will be read by three faculty in the program, who will then vote on your acceptance. We'll notify you as soon as we've made our decision, usually within two weeks. **DEADLINE: Application to the program MUST be made no later than two semesters before the semester of graduation.** For more information, visit the Creative Writing Program's website at <http://core.ecu.edu/engl/cw>.

- Questions? Contact the program director, Alex Albright, [albrightd@ecu.edu](mailto:albrightd@ecu.edu) •

## Opportunities

ECU offers our students a variety of **opportunities to interact with writers**. The Annual Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming brings noteworthy regional writers to our campus and offers workshops in several genres. Writers often come to campus at the invitation of faculty members to participate in special classroom instruction.

Creative writing students also have the opportunity to **intern with two award-winning literary magazines, Tar River Poetry and the North Carolina Literary Review**. In such work, they gain hands-on experience in every phase of producing a literary journal. Student literary work is **published in the annual literary and arts magazine, Rebel**.

## Faculty



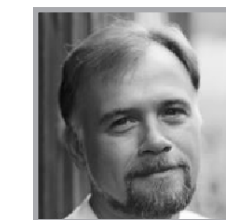
### Alex Albright

MFA, UNC Greensboro  
*Teaches: Creative Nonfiction and Research for Creative Writers*



### William Hallberg

MFA, Bowling Green University  
*Teaches: Creative Writing and Contemporary Fiction*



### John Hopenthaler

MFA, Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Teaches: Contemporary Poetry and American Literature*

### Robert Siegal

MFA, Brooklyn College  
*Teaches: Playwriting, Screenwriting, and 19th & 20th Century Drama*



### Luke Whisnant

MFA, Washington University (St. Louis)  
*Teaches: Modern American Literature and The Short Story*



### Liza Wieland

PhD, Columbia University  
*Teaches: Creative Writing, Contemporary British & American Novel, and Emily Dickinson*

