

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES - WRITING

Program-specific competencies are the skills, knowledge and attributes that students gain through academic studies in their specific discipline.

UVic students in the [Writing](#) program develop the following program-specific competencies. We worked with the Department of Writing to develop this document.

CREATIVE PRACTICE OF WRITING

Engages in the writing and criticism of compositions in the genres of poetry, drama, creative nonfiction and fiction

- + Understands and applies principles of grammatical analysis and the norms of standard written English
- + Understands and explores structures and the use of stylistic elements in the different written genres
- + Understands and explores the elements of narrative structure in the different written genres
- + Explores the nature of the creative process

POETRY

Writes original works of poetry and engages in critical discussion of the genre

- + Applies knowledge of specific poetic techniques, including prosody, sound patterns, diction and figurative language
- + Applies knowledge of formal structures in poetry, including poetic closure, the sonnet, sestina, villanelle and ghazal
- + Understands the influence of different poetic movements on the practice of contemporary poetic forms

FICTION

Writes original works of fiction and engages in critical discussion of the genre

- + Applies knowledge of structural composition and the function of technique in short fiction and the novel
- + Applies knowledge of narrative techniques, including theme, form, voice, point of view, scenic structure, role of narrator, character development, scene development, metaphor, diction, plot and dialogue

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Writes original works of creative nonfiction and engages in critical discussion of the genre

- + Applies knowledge of the major forms of creative nonfiction, including the personal essay, memoir, biography, travel writing, history, literary journalism and social/cultural analysis
- + Creates compelling and original narratives that are shaped by factual research, fictive, poetic and dramatic techniques, and a sense of purpose and audience
- + Applies knowledge of grammar, narrative structure, effective diction, syntax and figurative language

DRAMA

Writes original works of stage and screen drama and engages in critical discussion of the genre

- + Applies knowledge of the major forms of creative nonfiction, including the personal essay, memoir, biography, travel writing, history, literary journalism and social/cultural analysis

- + Creates compelling and original narratives that are shaped by factual research, fictive, poetic and dramatic techniques, and a sense of purpose and audience
- + Applies knowledge of grammar, narrative structure, effective diction, syntax and figurative language

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Writes original news articles and feature stories and engages in critical discussion of journalism and the mass media

- + Applies knowledge of professional standards and ethics in print and digital journalism
- + Applies knowledge of investigative news-gathering techniques, interviewing, feature writing and fact-checking
- + Applies knowledge of the craft and business of writing, editing and designing nonfiction stories for print and digital publication