

### **Creative Writing Capstone Guidelines and the Critical Introduction to the Capstone**

Students can fulfill the Creative Writing capstone by taking one of the following courses: 432, 437, 435, or 436. They may also find a creative writing faculty member, with whom they have previously studied, who is willing to work with them on a CE project. A contract must be signed by the professor and the student, including a plan of study appropriate to a CE project.

The capstone for the BA in Creative Writing should be approximately **10-pages in length for poetry** and **20-pages in length for prose**. In addition, **ALL students are required to complete a formal, 3-4 page critical introduction to the capstone.**

Please respond to the following questions in your capstone introduction, which should be submitted **WITH** your capstone project:

- Discuss in detail the revision process for your capstone, including specific challenges and ways that you resolved these issues. For poetry, you may choose to discuss in detail the revision process for several poems.
- Please comment on how literature courses you have taken at UMKC and the literature you have studied in Creative Writing courses at UMKC have influenced your writing and helped to guide the development of your capstone.

### **Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in English with Creative Writing Emphasis**

Graduates of the BA Program in Creative Writing will be able to demonstrate:

- A thorough understanding of poetics or storytelling craft through the production of creative works that are structurally sound, polished, and complete;
- Effective problem-solving and revision strategies in the composition of poems or stories;
- A strong, deliberate command of style, grammar, and mechanics;
- A general knowledge of literary history, especially the literary traditions of their chosen genre;
- The ability to analyze texts critically and the ability to recognize how a text displays a writer's artistic decisions; and
- A working vocabulary with which to discuss the technical and aesthetic aspects of their craft.

**UMKC Department of English**  
**Undergraduate Capstone Contract**

- Students will receive capstone credit when they submit to the Undergraduate Director a completed and signed Capstone Contract by the end of week three of the relevant semester and two copies of the final draft of the capstone project.
- You must receive a final grade of C- or better to be given capstone credit.

Capstone Semester and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Major track (please circle):

Literature	Creative Writing	Language/Rhetoric	Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies
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Capstone Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of the Assignment to be used for the Final Capstone Project (please use the back of the sheet if you need extra room):

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Name and Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Creative Writing Undergraduate Capstone Assessment**  
(to be completed by an assigned faculty member)

Capstone Semester and Year:

Project Title:

Major: Creative Writing

Course Number:

Course Title:

Course Instructor:

Assessor Name and Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please evaluate the thesis in the following areas on a scale from 0 to 4, with 4 being the highest.  
(0=Unacceptable; 1=Fair; 2=Good; 3=Very Good; 4=Outstanding)

**1. Does the writing demonstrate a thorough understanding of poetics or storytelling craft through the production of creative work that:**

- |                              |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. is structurally sound?    | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. is polished and complete? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**2. Does the writing demonstrate effective problem-solving and revision strategies in the composition of poems or stories?**

0      1      2      3      4

**3. Does the writing demonstrate a strong, deliberate command of:**

- |                           |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. style?                 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| b. grammar and mechanics? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

**4. Does the capstone introduction demonstrate a general knowledge of literary history, especially the literary traditions of their chosen genre?**

0      1      2      3      4

**5. Does the capstone introduction demonstrate the student's ability to analyze texts critically and the ability to recognize how a text displays a writer's artistic decisions?**

0      1      2      3      4

**6. Does the capstone demonstrate a working vocabulary with which the student discusses the technical and aesthetic aspects of their craft?**

0      1      2      3      4

**7. Please assign an overall score based on your answers from questions 1-6, including the scores for the sub-questions:**

0      1      2      3      4

**8. Do you recommend the acceptance of this capstone for the BA degree?**

Yes                      No

**7. What is your overall assessment of the capstone? Please summarize your evaluation.**

**8. What revisions are required to improve this capstone and further its development?**