

# BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

WITH EMPHASIS IN  
CREATIVE WRITING

# Introduction

B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts) in Creative Writing.

Vs.

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) in Creative Writing

THE B.F.A. is a more focused, specialized degree in Creative Writing.

The B.A. is an English Degree with a concentration in Creative Writing.

M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) in Creative Writing programs: 255

B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts) in Creative Writing programs: 67

Tribal Colleges and Universities: 37

Tribal Colleges and Universities with the B.F.A. degree in  
Creative Writing: 3

Tribal Colleges and Universities with the M.F.A. degree in  
Creative Writing today: 1

# AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) 1967

50,000 members

500 writing programs

(colleges and universities)

125 writers conferences and centers

University of Iowa (Iowa Writers' Workshop)

M.F.A. in Creative Writing, 1936

One must become an expert reader before one can hope to become an expert writer. To cultivate that expertise, a strong undergraduate program emphasizes a wide range of study in literature and other disciplines to provide students with the foundation they need to become resourceful—as readers, as intellectuals, and as writers. The goal of an undergraduate program is to teach students how to read closely as writers and to engage students in the practice of literary writing. An undergraduate course of study in creative writing gives students an overview of the precedents established by writers of many eras, continents, ethnicities, and sensibilities; it gives students the ability to analyze, appreciate, and integrate the components that comprise works of literature. By creating their own works, student writers may apply what they have learned about the elements of literature.

- AWP Director's Handbook, 2012

# History

A. FALL 2009  
IRVIN MORRIS CHAIR  
FOR HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT.

1) Discussion of a Creative Writing Program.

(Irvin recruited Orlando White)

2) Visiting writers' series a starting point for CW program.



### 3) WRITERS INVITED TO DINÉ COLLEGE: TSAILE CAMPUS:

Luci Tapahonso (Navajo Nation Poet Laureate)

Laura Tohe (Navajo Nation Poet Laureate)

Esther Belin

Sherwin Bitsui

Natanya Ann Pulley

Bojan Louis

Tacey Atsitty

Shaina Nez

Jesse Maloney

Klee Benally

Amanda Blackhorse

Melanie K. Yazzie

## WRITERS INVITED TO DINÉ COLLEGE

Nick Estes

Simon Ortiz

Ofelia Zepeda

Mark Turcotte

Santee Frazier

Joan Naviyuk Kane

Natalie Diaz (Pulitzer Prize winner)

## WRITERS INVITED TO DINÉ COLLEGE

Junot Diaz (Pulitzer Prize winner)

LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs

Brandon Som (Pulitzer Prize winner)

Arthur Sze (National Book Award winner)

Forrest Gander (Pulitzer Prize winner)

#### 4) IRVIN MORRIS RECRUITED

Orlando White (poetry)

Matthew Jake Skeets (poetry)

Alysa Landry (creative non-fiction) and

Rex Lee Jim . . .

to move towards building a creative writing faculty.

## B. SPRING 2019 PAUL WILLETO DEAN FOR SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES & ENGLISH.

- 1) Orlando White asked to jump-start the CW program.
- 2) First meeting with the English faculty to talk about the program.

Orlando White (poetry)

Irvin Morris (fiction)

Matthew Jake Skeets (poetry)

Shaina Nez (creative nonfiction)

Velma Hale

Rex Lee Jim (performing arts)

Anna Lee Walters (fiction)

Haesong Kwon (poetry)

Jesse Maloney (poetry)

Alysa Landry (creative nonfiction)

3) Faculty grouped up according to their genres to create prefixes and descriptions for CW courses.

4) Philosophical disagreements between some faculty and dean. Program is on hiatus.

## C. 2019 MATTHEW JAKE SKEETS IS APPOINTED TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM.

- 1) Paul Willetto speeds up the process for establishing a creative writing program.
- 2) Matthew Jake Skeets and Paul Willetto create checklist, curricula etc. for CW program.
- 3) Jake and Paul mold the CW program into an “emphasis” rather than a “full” CW program.
- 4) Prefixes for Creative Writing courses begin to appear sporadically for registration.

## D. FALL OF 2022 CREATIVE WRITING OFFICIALLY BECOMES A PROGRAM AT DINÉ COLLEGE.

1) Shaina Nez teaches the majority of the creative writing classes online.

2) Orlando White teaches one (fall 2021) and Jesse Maloney teaches a couple of CW course(s).

3) Most English/Creative Writing faculty are unaware where the CW program is going.

4) There is a continuation of differences philosophically about the CW program.



## E. SPRING 2024 ENGLISH/CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY "OFFICIALLY" BECOME PART OF THE CW PROGRAM.

- 1) Orlando White, Irvin Morris, and Haesong Kwon begin to teach CW classes.
- 2) Haesong Kwon, Irvin Morris, Shaina Nez, and Orlando White start CW BFA Assessment.
- 3) Haesong, Irvin, and Orlando are the core faculty for the Creative Writing Program.
- 4) Discussion among the faculty is ongoing on how to sustain and better the CW program.

Vision

“Having the ability to tell your own stories, to define your own world view, is called narrative sovereignty.

It means that you have the ability to share ideas that are important to you. When Indigenous people have narrative sovereignty, stereotypes and myths fall away and we are free to truly represent ourselves...

Our stories are a chance to get to know us, to see our humanity, to see us as multifaceted beings instead of two-dimensional stereotypes.”

—Ossie Michelin

# VISION

No Navajo writers

Statement

Sacred role of language

The role of literature (With an anecdote about Harry and me)

Upsurge in Navajo writers

We're at the beginning of a "new thing"

The need to make the Navajo language "relevant"  
to young people

# VISION

Restore the Navajo Language requirement and add more Diné language courses

Collaborations (CDS, etc.)

Creative writing as part of “Nation-Building”

Low-Residency MFA

## IMPACT OF CW WRITING IN:

Schools

Performing Arts

Writing for stage and screen

Film

Radio

TV

Internet

Movies

Publications

Social media

GRADUATES CAN GO ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL OR FIND  
EMPLOYMENT IN AREAS SUCH AS:

Journalism

Public Relations

Education

Publishing

Advertising

E-Book editor

Web editor

Proofreader

Copywriter

Freelance writer

Social media manager

Professor

Creative Director

Web content manager

Non-profits

A key part of our vision is the establishment of a...

**Diné College Center for the Arts.**

We want to make DC the flagship institution  
for the arts on the Navajo Nation!

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# DINE CENTER FOR THE ARTS WILL HOUSE:

Fine Art classrooms and studios

Performing Arts

Filmmaking studios

Animation

Digital productions

Auditorium

Foundry

Amphitheater

Diné College Press

Students, Checklist, Faculty, Publications

# THE BFA STUDENTS

10 primary majors

1 secondary major

Three Genres:

Fiction

Poetry

Creative Nonfiction

Graduates of the B.F.A. with emphasis in creative writing to date: 0

# OVERVIEW OF STUDENT PROFILE

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Full-Time & Part-Time Students – unduplicated, includes fall, spring and summer terms			12	21
First Time First Year Enrollees			2	2
Transfer Students			3	2
Pell Grant Recipient – at least one term			5	11
Gender = F/M			7/5	11/10
Race/Ethnic = Native/Non-Native			11/1	19/2
Age Range:				
13-17			0	0
18-21			1	3
22-24			4	3
25-34			2	7
35-49			3	4
50 & Older			2	4

# OVERVIEW OF STUDENTS BY CHAPTER

Chapter	Total # of students enrolled
NULL	3
Fort Defiance	2
Chilchinbeto	2
Chinle Chapter	2
Shiprock Chapter	2

## STUDENT VOICES

Danielle Manygoats

Darion Smith

Milton Bluehouse

LOWER-LEVEL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: FIRST TWO YEARS'  
COURSES + GEN ED REQUIREMENTS.  
(27 HRS)

CW 208: Introduction to Creative Writing

CW 212: Introduction to Poetry

CW 213: Introduction to Fiction

CW 214: Introduction to Creative Nonfiction (CNF)

CW 210: Reading as a Writer

ENG 131: Reading and Writing for Special Purposes

ENG 233: Introduction to Native American Literature

ENG 236: Introduction to Diné Literature

ENG 238: Introduction to Indigenous Literature

## JUNIOR SEMESTER I (12 HRS)

CW 312, 313, or 314: Poetry II; Fiction II; CNF II

CW 312, 313, or 314: Poetry II; Fiction II; CNF II

CW 302: Readings in Poetry

CW 303: Readings in Fiction



## JUNIOR SEMESTER II (12 HRS)

CW 322, 323, or 324: Poetry III; Fiction III; CNF III

CW 322: Poetry III

CW 323: Fiction III

CW 324: CNF III

CW 322, 323, or 324: Poetry III; Fiction III; CNF III

CW 322: Poetry III

CW 323: Fiction III

CW 324: CNF III

CW 304: Readings in Creative Nonfiction

CW 380: Junior Seminar

## SENIOR SEMESTER I (12 HRS)

CW 412, 413, or 414: Poetry IV; Fiction IV; CNF IV

CW 412: Poetry IV

CW 413: Fiction IV

CW 414: CNF IV

ENG 330; CW 339; 349, 359, 379, 429, or 489

ENG 330 Literary Theory

CW 339: Studies in Contemporary Writing

CW 349: Studies in World Writing

CW 359: Studies in Women's Writing

CW 379: Studies in Craft

CW 429: Dine' Storytelling

CW489: Literary Anthology

Electives from CA, ENG, FA, GD, HUM

## SENIOR SEMESTER II (12 HRS)

CW 496: Senior Study in Creative Writing

CW 497: Senior Thesis

CW 498: Senior Seminar

Electives from CA, ENG, FA, GD, HUM

## CURRENT CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY

**Orlando White, Poetry**

M.F.A. Brown University

Publications:

*Bone Light* (Red Hen Press, 2009)

*Letters* (Nightboat Books, 2015) :

Winner of the San Francisco Poetry Center Award

*Saad Na'ach'aah* (The Art of Words); (Sputnik & Fizzle, 2024).

## CURRENT CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY

**Irvin Morris, Fiction**

M.F.A. Cornell University

Publications:

*From the Glittering World* (University of Oklahoma Press; 1997)

## CURRENT CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY

### Haesong Kwon, Poetry and Fiction

M.F.A. University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Ph.D. Oklahoma State University

Publications:

Chapbook: “Many Have Fallen” (Cutbank Books, 2018)

*The People’s Field* (Bull City Press, 2019)

# FORMER CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY

**Alysa Landry, Creative Nonfiction**

M.F.A. Chatham University

Ph.D. Gratz College

**Jesse T. Maloney, Poetry and Fiction**

M.F.A. Lindenwood University

**Shaina Nez, Creative Nonfiction**

M.F.A. Institute of American Indian Arts

**Jake Skeets, Poetry**

M.F.A. Institute of American Indian Arts



# CURRENT ADJUNCT CREATIVE WRITING FACULTY

**Jessica Turcat, Poetry and Creative Nonfiction**

Ph.D. Oklahoma State University

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안녕히 가세요