### Overview of the PhD in Creative Writing and Literature

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<th>Year One</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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|           | • Take two 3-hour courses, plus Practicum (2 hours) and the Professionalization Seminar (1 hour)  
• Teach one composition course  
• You’re guaranteed one creative writing course next year; **by December 1**, turn in an application for any additional CW or literature courses you’d like to teach to the Department Head | • Take three 3-hour courses  
• Teach one composition course  
• Secure a teaching mentor for your guaranteed CW course next year; observe that person’s class at least once  
• **By March 15**, turn in the syllabus for your CW course to the Department Head |

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<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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|           | • Take three 3-hour courses  
• Teach one creative writing course  
• Ask your teaching mentor to observe your class  
• Begin planning exam areas and finding examiners  
• **By December 1**, turn in an application for any CW or literature courses you’d like to teach next year to the Department Head | • Take three 3-hour courses  
• Teach one composition, creative writing, or literature course  
• **By January 15**, turn in the Exam Areas and Committee form to the Director of Graduate Studies  
• **By the end of the semester**, turn in the Exam List form to the DGS |

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<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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|           | • Read for exams  
• Teach one composition, creative writing, or literature course  
• **By December 1**, turn in an application for any CW or literature courses you’d like to teach next year to the Department Head | • Teach one composition, creative writing, or literature course  
• **By the deadline in January**, apply for the Taft Dissertation Fellowship  
• Assemble your dissertation committee  
• **By February 15**, complete your exams; then turn in the Doctoral Candidacy form—with dissertation committee names—to the DGS |
| Year Four | **Write**  
|           | • Teach one composition, creative writing, or literature course | **Write**  
|           | • Teach one composition, creative writing, or literature course | **By the Graduate School deadline in January**, apply for graduation  
|           | • By March 15, apply (if necessary) for fifth-year funding to the DGS  
|           | • By the Graduate School deadline in early April, defend and submit your dissertation** |  

* Please note that second years are assigned CW courses in fall whenever possible; on occasion some second years will teach their guaranteed CW course in spring.

** Please note that all defenses and exams must take place during the school year.