

10 Universities Offering Free Writing Courses Online

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[Education Portal](#)

Whether you're currently writing professionally or still looking to break into the field, formal writing courses can help you hone your skills. If you don't have the money or the time for campus-based courses, there are plenty of universities that offer free writing courses online.

Earn the Lowest-Cost college credit from free courses!

Most free courses don't lead to college credit. Education Portal Academy's free courses do!

Here's how it works:

1. Watch free video lessons.
2. Take free quizzes.
3. Pass an exam to earn real college credit.

See the full course list

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (mit.edu)

Writing and Reading Short Stories
Writing and Reading the Essay
Writing and Reading Poems

MIT offers dozens of free undergraduate and graduate writing courses online through its MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) initiative. Course topics include everything from writing fiction, poems and essays to analyzing all forms of literature. Lecture notes, videos, suggested reading lists and more will help you to become the writer you've always wanted to be. No registration is required.

2. Utah State University (usu.edu)

Intro to Writing Academic Prose
Intermediate Research Writing
Technology for Professional Writers

Utah State University's Department of English publishes three free courses devoted to the art of writing through the school's OpenCourseWare program. The courses are extensive and may take up to 16 weeks to complete if you study at the average pace. No registration is required. Courses are similar to the courses that might be found in a professional writing degree program.

3. Open University (open.ac.uk)

Fiction Writing Course
Descriptive Writing Course
Essay Writing Course

Open University, the UK's largest academic institution, offers a number of different writing courses through their OpenLearn website. The free curriculum includes both undergraduate and graduate level writing courses that are available to everyone regardless of country of origin. No registration is required.

4. University of Utah (utah.edu)

Introduction to Creative Writing

The University of Utah's English Department offers free courses to self-learners around the world. Currently, there is only one free writing course, but it offers a strong introduction to creative writing for beginners. Free registration is required.

5. University of Massachusetts Boston (umb.edu)

Critical Reading and Writing

The University of Massachusetts Boston offers one free writing course through its OpenCourseWare initiative. The course is designed for people who are seeking to strengthen their academic writing skills, and would be ideal for someone considering going back to school. No registration is required.

6. Purdue University (owl.english.purdue.edu)

Pattern and Variation in Poetry
Proofreading Your Writing
Professional and Technical Writing

Purdue University brought their writing lab to life online in 1994 to offer a writing resource to students no matter where they were located. Online Writing Lab (OWL) materials are now free to everyone regardless of location or student status. The OWL site offers writing instruction, grammar and usage information, individualized help from tutors and much more. No registration is required.

7. Steven Barnes' UCLA Writing Course (lifewrite.com)

9-Week Introduction to Screenwriting Course

Best selling author and screenwriter Steven Barnes offers a free version on his website of the writing class he has been teaching for many years at UCLA. The course offers in-depth

instruction on writing, which is why Barnes suggests completing each part of the nine-week course one week at a time. Nevertheless, the course can be downloaded all at once. No registration is required.

8. News University (newsu.org)

- Cleaning Your Copy
- Beat Basics and Beyond
- Covering Breaking News

News University has a solid e-learning program designed to provide training to journalists and other professional writers. Most of the courses offered at News U are free, especially those that are self-directed. Courses cover everything from writing and editing to reporting and ethics. News U also offers a newsletter, a blog and other great resources. Registration is required, but the courses are free for everyone.

9. E-Zine University (ezineuniversity.com)

- Writing Clearly and Effectively
- Conquering Confusing Words
- Quick Ways to Clean Up Your Writing

E-Zine University offers quite a few courses written by Internet publisher Kate Schultz and visiting professors. Although the courses offered at E-Zine University are designed mainly for web writers and e-zine writers, they would be helpful to almost any scribe. Courses are very short and don't take much time to complete. No registration is required.

10. Wikiversity (wikiversity.org)

- Introduction to Web Writing
- Technical Writing Courses
- Narrative Dialog Editing

Wikiversity is an active learning project that encourages people to create and benefit from online courses and tutorials. There are currently several different writing courses that can be found at Wikiversity, many of which focus on technical writing. Although these courses vary in length and content, there's something for everyone. No registration is required.

Earn Real Credit from Free Courses

While the free courses above don't award credit directly, there are two widely recognized and affordable options for students to gain real college credit.

Option #1: Pass a CLEP Exam

- [Learn About CLEP Exams](#)

The College Board's 33 CLEP exams allow you to test out of your general education requirements. Credit is accepted at 2/3 of colleges and universities in the U.S.

Option #2: Prepare a Portfolio

Learn About Prior Learning Assessment

LearningCounts.org helps you prepare a portfolio that proves your knowledge. A faculty expert then recommends how much credit should be awarded. The process is call 'prior learning assessment'.

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