

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

### **Creative Writing at NOCCA**

**Students currently in 8-10th grades are eligible to apply.**

Because of the academic nature of the creative writing program, successful students usually have high reading scores on standardized tests (85 percent or above), high grade-point averages (3.0 or above), and demonstrate superior reading comprehension.

**Include with your completed application:**

(1) An original work of creative writing. This can be a poem or short story that you have spent time revising, and that you consider to be an example of your best work.

(2) A list of books you have read over the past three months. The list should include the title and author of each book.

(3) A creative work (poem or short story) that describes what you see outside a window in your house. Please include sensory details (how things look, smell, taste, sound, or feel) and at least one simile or metaphor. Limit: 10 lines of poetry or 100 words of fiction.

(4) An essay discussing a poem, short story or novel you read that influenced you as a writer. Please tell us how this work/author changed the way you think about writing, and use quotes and examples from the text to support your ideas. The essay should be between 300 and 500 words.

All writing submissions should be typed using a standard 12-point font and black ink. Please proofread your submissions to ensure that they are free from grammatical and spelling errors. Selected students will be asked to advance to the Audition Process.

**At the audition:** Students invited to audition must bring an additional writing portfolio consisting of 10 typed pages of original creative writing (poetry and/or short fiction).

At the audition, students should demonstrate a strong desire to read and write, and a willingness to do more than the work required. Students may be asked to read aloud and discuss a published poem or story excerpt. All students invited to an audition should be prepared for a one-on-one interview with a faculty member.

# AUDITION TIPS FOR SUCCESS

## Creative Writing at NOCCA

### **Before Auditioning:**

Think about why you want to attend NOCCA's Creative Writing Program. A love of language and literature is essential. Most of our time is spent reading, discussing literature, writing and revising original work.

Consider the commitment NOCCA requires. In order to be successful in the NOCCA Program, you will need to prioritize your creative work, and may have to make difficult choices regarding extracurricular activities. Take into account your workload at your sending school, your sending school schedule, transportation, etc.

Talk with your parent/guardian about your reasons for wanting to attend NOCCA and about your plan for balancing your creative writing with other coursework and responsibilities you might have (job, extracurricular activities, family obligations, etc).

Consider these questions prior to your audition date: Why do you want to study writing? Are you willing to spend many hours outside of class on your reading and writing? What do you need to know about NOCCA and the creative writing program in order to determine if it's the right fit for you?

### **What to Bring to the Audition:**

(1) Bring 10 typed pages of your own original poetry and/or fiction that you consider to be your best work. You probably write every day -- poems, short stories, plays, non-fiction, journal. Collect the best of your writing, revise it so that it represents your strongest talent, type it (single spaced for poetry; double spaced for fiction) and proofread your work to be sure it's free of spelling and grammatical errors. You are also encouraged to bring a sample of your revision process to the audition as an example of your creative process (for example, bring the first, second and third drafts of a poem).

(2) An updated list of the books you've read in the past three months (and since submitting your NOCCA application). Remember to include the title and author. The quality and variety of what you're reading is important. We expect that your list will include books that are not required reading at your current school, and that you're reading classics, contemporary literature and international literature. You can refer to our recommended book list when making reading selections, or check out other resources for finding good reading (library, bookstores, parents, etc.). During the audition, we will discuss the books on your list.

### **Other Considerations for the Audition:**

- Your current grades are important. A minimum 3.0 grade point average is expected.
- Arrive with a mature attitude and professional demeanor (turn off your cell phone, don't chew gum, have questions prepared).
- We may ask you to read aloud from a brief text and talk with us about the selection.

- Tell us about your other interests: music, film, art, sports, etc.

Feel free to ask us questions. Remember, the audition is also a chance for you to figure out if NOCCA is the right place for you. Most importantly, be yourself. We're genuinely interested in getting to know you.

Any questions? Call Lara Naughton, 504.940.2821 or email [lnaughton@nocca.com](mailto:lnaughton@nocca.com)