

2025 UNDERGRADUATE CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

Deadline: Noon, Friday, February 28, 2025

The English Department is pleased to announce its annual undergraduate literary competitions in Short Fiction and Poetry. Prizes range from \$100 to \$1500 with multiple awards in each category.

Contest rules are as follows:

Short Fiction: Submit no more than one unpublished story (7500 words, maximum length)

Poetry: Submit up to 5 unpublished poems in a single document.

Only University of Illinois undergraduate students are eligible. To be considered for a prize, submissions must adhere to the following rules:

- All submissions must be sent via email as an attachment to: jdudek4@illinois.edu.
- The subject line of your email message must read as follows: “UNDERGRAD POETRY: Last name” or “UNDERGRAD FICTION: Last name”
- If you enter in both categories (poetry and fiction), you will need to send separate emails.
- In the body of your email, please include:
 - Your name
 - address
 - phone number
 - e-mail address
 - status (undergraduate student)
 - UIN

This year, we are also able to offer new scholarships worth \$1000 in both Fiction and Poetry. These scholarships will be distributed to students based on merit, with preference given to students displaying financial need and who graduated from an Illinois high school.

If you would like to be considered for one of these scholarships, please include the following along with the information above:

- a brief note on your financial need
- the name of the Illinois highschool from which you graduated

Your entry itself is to be contained in one attached .docx file. The name of this file must be the contest category followed by your last name, such as “FICTION JONES.docx” or “POETRY JONES.docx” Your name should not appear within the document itself.

Winners will be announced Early April. Please direct any questions to John Dudek, Associate Director of Creative Writing at Jdudek4@illinois.edu