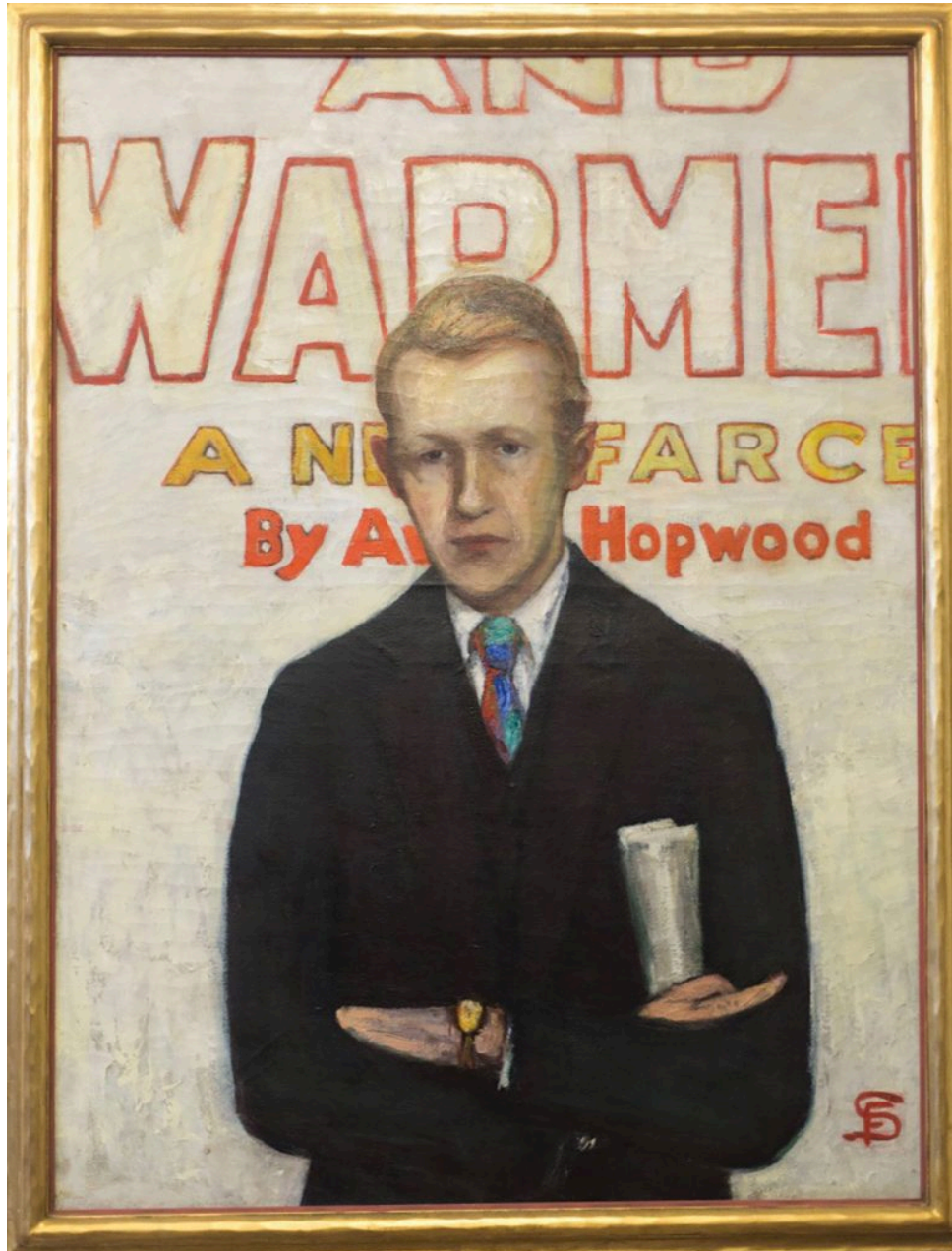


The Hopwood Writing Awards

2026

Contest Rules and Guidelines



Avery Hopwood, from a portrait by Florine Stettheimer

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The Hopwood Awards

Introduction

The Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Prizes were established at the University of Michigan in 1930-31 to award students “who perform the best creative work in the fields of dramatic writing, fiction, poetry, and the essay.” In his 1922 will Avery Hopwood, a 1905 graduate of the University of Michigan who became the most commercially successful playwright of his time, stipulated that “it is especially desired that the students competing for the prizes shall not be confined to academic subjects, but shall be allowed the widest possible latitude, and that the new, the unusual, and the radical shall be especially encouraged.”

Since the first contest, the Hopwood Program has awarded well over \$3 million to graduate and undergraduate writers at the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses. The number of contests has grown to include graduate and undergraduate contests in other genres, contests exclusively for freshmen and sophomores, and additional contests and add-on prizes sponsored by other donors. A winner of any contest managed by the Hopwood program is considered a Hopwood winner. Former Hopwood winners include Arthur Miller, Robert Hayden, Frank O’Hara, Marge Piercy, Lawrence Kasdan, Jesmyn Ward, Victoria Chang, and Celeste Ng.

University of Michigan undergraduates enrolled for at least six credits and graduate students enrolled for at least three credits are eligible to enter the Hopwood contests. Some contests have additional eligibility requirements. Please read the regulations carefully before submitting.

The following rules and guidelines have been revised and updated and replace all previous rules found on the Hopwood website and elsewhere.

The Hopwood Awards: Four Categories

While the contests and prizes managed by the Hopwood Awards Program are known collectively as the Hopwood Awards, there are some important differences among them. Here are the four categories of contests and prizes:

The Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Awards, also known as the Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards, are open to graduate and undergraduate students and include the genres of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, screenplay, and the novel. The Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize for the long poem or poetic sequence is also included in this category. There are separate contests for graduate and undergraduate students in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction; graduate and undergraduate students compete together in the drama, screenplay, and novel contests and for the Roethke Prize.

The Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Contests are:

Hopwood Graduate Award in Poetry
Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Poetry
Hopwood Graduate Award in Fiction
Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Fiction
Hopwood Graduate Award in Nonfiction
Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Nonfiction
Hopwood Award in Drama
Hopwood Award for Screenplay
Hopwood Award for the Novel
Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

The Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contests, formerly known as the Hopwood Underclassmen Contests, are open only to freshmen and sophomores (undergraduates who have earned less than 54 academic credits). They include contests in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. There are multiple winners, but no finalists in these contests.

The Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contests are:

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Poetry
Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Fiction
Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Nonfiction

Additional Contests are contests that were established after the original Hopwood contests and funded by individual donors. They include several single-poem contests, two undergraduate short story contests, contests in journalism, screenwriting, drama, and text-image composition, and two contests that allow submission of multiple genres.

The additional contests are:

Academy of American Poets Prize (Graduate)
Academy of American Poets Prize (Undergraduate)
Arthur Miller Award
Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize
Cora Duncan Award in Fiction
David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism
Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry
Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing
Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award
Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry
Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry
Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction
Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship
Text/Composition Prize

Add-On Prizes are prizes given as an additional prize to contestants who have won or placed in certain Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Contests. Students don't compete directly for these prizes; rather, students who win or place in certain Hopwood Award contests will be notified at the end of the competition if they have also won an add-on prize.

The add-on prizes are:

Andrea Beauchamp Prize
Chamberlin Award for Creative Writing
Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting
Geoffrey James Gosling Prize
Helen J. Daniels Prize
Helen S. and John Wagner Prize
John Wagner Prize
Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Dramatic Writing
Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction
Meador Family Award
Naomi Saferstein Literary Award
Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award
Robert F. Haugh Prize
Roy and Helen Meador Award
Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

Rules and Submission Guidelines for All Contests

1. University of Michigan undergraduate students enrolled for at least six credits and graduate students enrolled for at least three credits may enter the Hopwood contests for as long as they remain eligible. Students can be enrolled at any University of Michigan campus. December graduates may enter the contest for the upcoming year as long as they submit their entries while they are still enrolled students.
2. Students need not be enrolled in, or have previously taken, any particular course in order to enter any of the Hopwood contests.
3. Students may enter all of the contests for which they are eligible, but may only submit one entry per contest.
4. Students may not enter the same manuscript in more than one contest except where it is explicitly permitted in the contest guidelines.
5. Students may not enter manuscripts that have won a place in any Hopwood-managed contest in a previous year, even if the manuscript has been revised. Students who were finalists in a contest in a previous year may re-enter manuscripts.
6. Students who won first or second place in a Hopwood contest in a previous year may not enter that contest again, although they may enter other contests for which they are eligible. **Students who have won third through fifth place in a Hopwood contest in a previous year may reenter that contest, but not with the same manuscript, even if the manuscript has been revised.** Students who were finalists in a contest in a previous year may reenter that contest with the same manuscript or a different manuscript.
7. Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. (one minute before midnight) on the day of the deadline found on the Hopwood website. For 2026, the deadline is January 15th. December graduates must submit their entries by 11:59 p.m. on the Friday before fall commencement. For the 2026 contest, the deadline is December 12, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.
8. All manuscripts must be submitted through the Hopwood contest portal. The link for the portal is on the Hopwood website: <https://lsa.umich.edu/hopwood>.
9. Students must be the sole authors of the manuscripts they submit. No part of the text for a submission should be composed by another person except for attributed quotations. Photographs or graphics included with the text, if not the work of the author, must be credited (For the Text/Image Composition Prize, the contestant must be the author of both text and images). No part of the submission should be AI-generated.
10. With the exception of the David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism, submissions should not have been accepted for publication or previously published in any form except undergraduate literary journals, campus newspapers, or a personal website. Work that has

been submitted for publication but has not yet been accepted may be submitted. In the event that a piece submitted to a Hopwood contest is accepted for publication or published between January 15th and April 15th, contestants will not be required to withdraw it from the contest.

11. Manuscripts must take the form of a PDF. Students are responsible for correctly formatting and submitting their PDFs.
12. Manuscripts should be in a 12-point standard font such as Times Roman. Screenplay manuscripts should be in 12-point Courier or Courier New. There can be exceptions to this rule if variation in typeface and/or font size are integral elements in a composition.
13. Manuscripts should have one-inch margins except for the left margin, which should have a one-and-a-half inch margin. Poetry and Text/Image Composition manuscripts may have wider (but not narrower) margins.
14. Manuscripts for prose submissions should be double-spaced. Spacing for drama and screenplay contests should follow the standard formatting for those genres. Poetry manuscripts are often single-spaced between lines and double-spaced between stanzas, but it's permissible for poems to be spaced on the page in a variety of ways.
15. All manuscripts longer than a page should include page numbers. The title page and any front or back matter that is not part of the main text (for instance, the Dramatis Personae page for a play or an optional Table of Contents for a collection of poetry) should not be numbered or included in the page count.
16. Every entry must have a title. Since the titles of the manuscripts of winners and finalists will be announced at the Hopwood Awards Ceremony and published on the website, contestants should avoid using a generic title (i.e., "Hopwood Submission"). For manuscripts containing two or more distinct works, contestants can give the manuscript a separate title or include a list of those works within the title (for example, Three Stories: X, Y, Z).
17. Students should choose a pen name. The same pen name should be used for each submission entered in the same year's contest. No part of the student's real name should be used as a pen name or should appear anywhere in the manuscript or on the title page.
18. Every submission should include a title page. The title of the manuscript should be centered about a third of the way down the page. Three centered lines at the bottom of the page should include 1) the pen name chosen by the author 2) the name of the contest and 3) the contest year.
19. Although photos or other illustrations may be included as part of a submission, images that identify the author of the submission in any way are prohibited.

20. By entering the contest, students give permission to the Hopwood Program to retain a copy of their submission for the Hopwood archives. The Hopwood Program and the Bentley Library may give access to Hopwood-winning manuscripts by request.
21. Contestants retain all rights to their work. Contest winners who subsequently publish a book containing all or part of an award-winning manuscript, even in revised form, are required to include an acknowledgement of that fact which names the prize and the year it was received. For example: “[Name of work(s)] received first place in the 2026 Hopwood Graduate Award for Fiction at the University of Michigan” or “An earlier version of [Name of work(s)] received first place in the 2026 Hopwood Award for the Novel at the University of Michigan.”
22. All contestants will receive notification via email about contest results by the first week in April. Emails to winners and finalists will include detailed information about the prizes they have won.

Submission Guidelines:

Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Awards

Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards include contests in poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, screenplay, and the novel. There are no restrictions on content or style. The judges for these contests are established writers in the contest genre who rank manuscripts according to their own tastes and standards of quality. Judges make their decisions based on the overall quality of the manuscript rather than a single poem, short story, or essay within a manuscript. The roster of judges changes from year to year.

No manuscript submitted to a Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Award contest can be submitted to any other Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Award contest with two exceptions: **A student may submit all or part of their Theodore Roethke submission as part of their Hopwood Poetry submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Poetry manuscript. A student may submit one stand-alone chapter or excerpt from their Hopwood Novel submission as a short story in their Hopwood Fiction submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Fiction manuscript.**

There are minimum and maximum page counts for each contest. The title page and any optional front or back matter (for instance, the Dramatis Personae page for a play or optional endnotes for an essay) should not be included in the page count. A manuscript will be disqualified if the body of the text fails to meet the minimum page count or exceeds the maximum.

Hopwood Graduate Poetry

Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry

These awards are for collections of poetry in any style. A student may submit all or part of their Theodore Roethke submission as part of their Hopwood Poetry submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Poetry manuscript.

Page limits for the Graduate contest:	Minimum 30 pages, Maximum 50 pages
Page limits for the Undergraduate contest:	Minimum 15 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Hopwood Graduate Fiction

Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction

These awards are for short fiction. Entries can be a single story or two or more stories as long as the entire manuscript falls within the page limits. A student may submit one stand-alone chapter or excerpt from their Hopwood Novel submission as a short story in their Hopwood Fiction submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Fiction manuscript.

Page limits for the Graduate contest:	Minimum 30 pages, Maximum 50 pages
Page limits for the Undergraduate contest:	Minimum 15 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction
Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction

These awards are for short nonfiction. Entries can be memoir, personal essays, lyric essays, etc. **Academic essays may be entered, but please note that the emphasis in judging will be on style and voice rather than on argument or evidence.** Entries can be a single piece or two or more pieces as long as the entire manuscript falls within the page limits.

Page limits for the Graduate contest: Minimum 30 pages, Maximum 50 pages
Page limits for the Undergraduate contest: Minimum 15 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Hopwood Drama This award is for stage plays or musical plays. The entry can be one or two one-act plays or one full-length play. Manuscripts should be formatted appropriately for the genre (see the Resources section of this document). There are no separate divisions for graduates and undergraduates for this contest.

Page limits: Minimum 50 pages, Maximum 120 pages

Hopwood Screenplay This award is for a feature-length screenplay or teleplay. Manuscripts should be formatted appropriately for the genre (see the Resources section of this document). There are no separate divisions for graduates and undergraduates for this contest.

Page limits: Minimum 90 pages, Maximum 120 pages

Hopwood Novel This award is for a novel **or novella**. It is the only contest that allows submissions to be either complete manuscripts or excerpts of a work in progress. **Stand-alone excerpts are preferred, but contestants can submit a synopsis of up to 500 words to provide context for the excerpt (this synopsis should not be considered part of the page count). A student may submit one stand-alone chapter or excerpt from their Hopwood Novel submission as a short story in their Hopwood Fiction submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Fiction manuscript.** There are no separate divisions for graduates and undergraduates for this contest.

Page limits: Minimum 100 pages, Maximum 350 pages

The Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize This is an award for the best long poem or poetic sequence. A poetic sequence is a group of poems or poetic passages that form an integral whole. The relationship between the parts and the whole may be formal (for instance, a crown of sonnets) or informal (a set of lyrics linked by content, theme or image). There are no separate divisions for graduates and undergraduates for this contest. A student may submit all or part of their Theodore Roethke submission as part of their Hopwood Poetry submission as long as it makes up no more than half of their Hopwood Poetry manuscript.

Page limits: Minimum 12 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Submission Guidelines:

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Awards

The Hopwood First- and Second-Year Awards include contests in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. There are no restrictions on content or style. The judges for these contests are often recent alumni of the University of Michigan's acclaimed Helen Zell Writers' Program, many of whom have won Hopwood Awards in the contest genre. Judges rank manuscripts according to their own tastes and standards of quality. Judges make their decisions based on the overall quality of the manuscript rather than a single poem, short story, or essay within a manuscript. The roster of judges changes from year to year.

These contests are open only to freshmen and sophomores (undergraduates who have earned less than 54 academic credits). Students who qualify to enter the First- and Second-Year Awards may also enter the Hopwood Undergraduate Awards contests, but not with the same manuscript.

There are minimum and maximum page counts for each contest. The title page and any optional front or back matter (for instance, an optional table of contents for a collection of poetry or optional endnotes for an essay) should not be included in the page count. A manuscript will be disqualified if the body of the text fails to meet the minimum page count or exceeds the maximum.

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry Award

This award is for a collection of poetry in any style.

Page limits: Minimum 10 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction Award

This award is for short fiction. Entries can be a single story or two or more stories as long as the entire manuscript falls within the page limits.

Page limits: Minimum 10 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction Award

This award is for short nonfiction. Entries can be memoir, personal essays, lyric essays, etc. Academic essays may be entered, but please note that the emphasis in judging will be on style and voice rather than on argument or evidence. Entries can be a single piece or two or more pieces as long as the entire manuscript falls within the page limits.

Page limits: Minimum 10 pages, Maximum 25 pages

Submission Guidelines: Additional Contests

Additional contests vary widely in their rules for eligibility. It's important to read the guidelines for each contest carefully.

Academy of American Poets Prize

Open to graduate and undergraduate students (separate divisions)

Two awards of \$100 are offered by this national organization for poems submitted by University of Michigan students. This prize was endowed by Mrs. Sharon A. Galley in memory of her late husband, David Galley, a 1966 graduate of the University of Michigan.

One prize will go to a graduate student, the other to an undergraduate. Winners of the Academy of American Poets Prizes at University of Michigan who are twenty-three years old or younger will be considered for the Aliko Perroti and Seth Frank Most Promising Young Poet Award. Established in 2013 and judged by an Academy Chancellor, the Most Promising Young Poet Award recognizes a student poet with an annual cash prize of \$1,000.

Entries should consist of a single poem in any style.

-Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for other single-poem contests and the Keith Taylor Award contest.

-No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest, nor may a winning poem be subsequently entered in any other Hopwood Program contest.

Arthur Miller Award

Open only to sophomores and juniors

The University of Michigan Club of New York has generously sponsored a scholarship award in honor of distinguished playwright and U-M graduate Arthur Miller.

In the past, this contest required two letters of recommendation. This requirement has been waived for 2025 and subsequent contests.

-These genres are eligible for submission: fiction, poetry, drama, screenplay, or a combination of these. Nonfiction may not be entered in this contest.

-Page limits: Minimum 20 pages, Maximum 120 pages.

-Work that has been submitted to other Hopwood contests may be submitted to the Arthur Miller Award contest.

-Work that has won first through fifth place in any Hopwood contest may not be submitted to the Arthur Miller Award contest (this is a change from previous years).

Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize

Open to graduate and undergraduate students

An award for a poem in form. This form can be traditional (i.e., sonnet, sestina, ghazal, etc.) or contemporary (i.e., golden shovel).

-Entries should consist of a single poem.

-Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for other single-poem contests and the Keith Taylor Award contest.

-No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest, nor may a winning poem be subsequently entered in any other Hopwood Program contest.

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

Peter Pratt Award in Fiction

Open only to undergraduates.

These two awards each recognize excellence in a single short story. The awards are in honor of Cora Duncan, a five-time Hopwood winner (1951, 1952, and 1953), a brilliant and influential high school teacher, and a great mentor to young writers; and Peter Philip Pratt, a winner of a 1985 Hopwood award, who went on to be influential in Michigan public policy, investing his endless energy to better our state in many ways, including by expanding access to early childhood education. We are honored to remember these two deeply beloved, engaged, and dynamic figures with awards in their names for outstanding student writers.

-Page limits for both contests: No minimum; 30-page maximum.

-Students may enter both contests, but they must submit different stories to each.

-Students may submit stories to the Cora Duncan Award and the Peter Philip Pratt Award that have also been submitted to the Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction or Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction contests.

-Students may not enter work that has won a prize in any Hopwood contest.

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

Open to graduate and undergraduate students

This award recognizes excellence in a variety of journalistic forms including news articles, feature articles, narrative journalism, and long-form journalism. It is named for David Porter,

Professor and former Chair of the English Department and Director of the Detroit River Story Lab.

-Page limits: No minimum; 25-page maximum.

-Work that has been previously published in a newspaper or trade magazine may be submitted; however, the piece must have been published within the time that the student has been enrolled as a University of Michigan student in the capacity in which they are currently enrolled. For instance, a current graduate student may not submit work published when they were an undergraduate. Unpublished work may also be submitted to this contest.

-Manuscripts submitted in this contest may be submitted in other Hopwood contests.

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

Open only to freshmen and sophomores

The family and friends of Jeffrey L. Weisberg have established as a memorial two annual prizes in poetry. The Weisberg Prize is for the best poems submitted by freshmen or sophomores at the University of Michigan.

Jeffrey L. Weisberg received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in 1972, and his Master's Degree in 1973. He won a Summer Hopwood Poetry Award in 1973. On March 17, 1977, while teaching at Dade Community College in Florida, he was killed in an automobile accident. His degree as Doctor of Arts was awarded posthumously in August, 1977.

-Entries should consist of a single poem in any style.

-Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for other single-poem contests and the Keith Taylor Award contest.

-No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest.

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Open to graduate and undergraduate students

The Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing was established by University of Michigan graduates Lawrence and Meg Kasdan. The manuscripts of the finalists will be judged by a staff member at Kasdan Pictures.

-Submissions may be screenplays, plays, or teleplays. Preference will be given to screenplays, all other considerations being equal.

-Screenplay manuscripts must be 90–110 pages in length. Teleplays must be at least 50 pages in length. One-act plays must be 50–60 pages in length and full-length plays 80–100 pages.

-A contestant may submit only one screenplay or full-length play, but may submit two one-act plays.

- Only completed works, as opposed to works in progress, may be submitted.
- The same manuscript may be submitted in other contests administered by the Hopwood Program.
- Students may not enter work that has won a prize in any Hopwood contest. (This is a change from previous years.)
- No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest.

Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award

Open only to undergraduates

This award recognizes an outstanding undergraduate poet who best exemplifies the spirit of Keith Taylor's writing and life, exploring the human condition and our relationship to the natural world. The award is in honor of Keith Taylor, a poet, writer, and emeritus A.L. Becker Collegiate Lecturer who previously directed the Bear River Writers' Conference and coordinated the English Department's undergraduate creative writing program. We are thrilled to carry on Keith Taylor's remarkable legacy of mentorship on this campus by celebrating outstanding undergraduate poets in his name.

- Submissions should consist of three to five poems that explore the human condition and our relationship to the natural world.
- Page limits: No minimum, 15 pages maximum.
- Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for any of the single-poem contests.

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

Open only to undergraduates

This prize was established by Mrs. Phyllis Rapaport in memory of her daughter Marjorie.

- Entries should consist of a single poem of any length or style.
- Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for other single-poem contests and the Keith Taylor Award contest.
- No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest.

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

Open to graduate and undergraduate students

This contest offers prizes awarded annually from funds contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Gutterman as a memorial to their son. The terms of the bequest stipulate that the prize poems “shall exemplify the new, the unusual, and the radical.”

-The submission should consist of a single poem of any length or style that exemplifies “the new, the unusual, and the radical.”

-Poems submitted for this contest **may** be entered in other contests except for other single-poem contests and the Keith Taylor Award contest.

-No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest.

Peter Pratt Award in Fiction (see Cora Duncan Award in Fiction)

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Open only to undergraduates

The Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship was established with contributions of Hopwood winners and other students of Professor Cowden, who was the Director of the Hopwood Prize Program from 1935 to 1952.

The Cowden Fellowship is the only Hopwood contest that is campus-specific: Ann Arbor students compete with other Ann Arbor students, Dearborn students with other Dearborn students, and Flint students with other Flint students.

-These genres are eligible for submission: fiction, poetry, drama, screenplay, nonfiction, or a combination of these.

-Page limits: Minimum 20 pages, Maximum 120 pages.

-The same manuscript may be submitted in other contests administered by the Hopwood Program.

-Students may not enter work that has won a prize in any Hopwood contest. (This is a change from previous years.)

-No student who has won this award may compete again in the contest.

Text/Image Composition Prize

Open to graduate and undergraduate students

This prize is open to work in which text and image combine to form an integrated composition.

-Text can be nonfiction, fiction, poetry, drama, or a combination of genres.

-Still images (black-and-white or color) can be hand-drawn or painted illustrations, collage, photographs, computer-generated graphics, public domain graphics, typographic symbols, textual manipulation, innovative page arrangements, or a combination of these.

-Text and images must be the work of a single author/artist.

-Page limits: Minimum 8 pages, Maximum 80 pages.

-Submissions may consist of a single work or combination of two or more works, each of which combines text and image. For instance, a submission could be a full-length comic, several graphic poems, or a graphic essay and an illustrated short story. Each manuscript will be judged as a whole.

-Manuscripts submitted to this contest may not be submitted to any other Hopwood contest.

The Judging Process

Hopwood judges are accomplished writers in the genre of the contest they are judging. Many Hopwood judges have received national recognition for their publications and productions (read the bios of the most recent roster of judges in the Hopwood Awards Ceremony program on the Hopwood Program website). With one or two exceptions, judges are not hired to judge the same contest in consecutive years. Current employees of the University of Michigan are ineligible to serve as judges.

With the exception of the Roethke Prize, which has one preliminary and one final judge, the Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Awards are determined by two preliminary and two final judges in two rounds of judging. While the undergraduate and graduate contests in fiction, poetry, and nonfiction have different preliminary judges, the same set of judges serve as final judges for the graduate and undergraduate categories in these contests. There are usually multiple winners and finalists in each contest (the Roethke has one or two winners but several finalists). In addition to a monetary prize, winners and finalists in these contests receive comments from the final judges.

The Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contests have two judges for each contest, but only one round of judging. Winners receive a monetary prize, but no judge comments. There are no finalists for these contests.

Each of the additional contests has a single judge with the exception of the Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing which has a preliminary and a final judge. Some of these contests have single winners and some have multiple winners. There are no finalists in these contests except for the Cowden contest, which may or may not have finalists according to the judge's discretion. Winners receive a monetary prize, but no judge comments.

Hopwood Prizes and Payments

Prize amounts

Prize amounts vary considerably from contest to contest, from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of several thousand dollars for top Hopwood Graduate contest winners. Prize amounts are confidential and will not be publicized before or after the announcement of winners and finalists.

The Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Contests and the Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contests are funded by the original Hopwood endowment. Prize amounts may vary from year to year, but are standardized within the contest year across equivalent contests. Award amounts are determined by a formula based on the scores of both final judges.

Except for the Academy of American Poets Prize, prize amounts for additional contests may vary from year to year and are determined by the monetary balance of individual endowments supporting each prize as well as the judges' rankings and recommendations.

Prize amounts for add-on prizes are determined by the monetary balance of individual endowments supporting each prize as well as the rankings of the final judges for the relevant Hopwood contests.

Prize payments

The Hopwood Program will begin processing payments for winners and finalists within two weeks of the Hopwood Awards Ceremony. Processing payments may take several weeks. The university may email winners and finalists for information. It is important for winners and finalists to respond promptly to university emails to avoid payment delays.

Like all prizes, Hopwood Awards contest prizes may be subject to income tax based on the recipient's relationship with the university.

Please note the following:

Cash gifts, prizes and awards to employees that are paid for by university funds constitute gross wages subject to federal and state income and FICA taxation. **Awards for winners and finalists who are or have been employed by the university within the past calendar year will be paid through the university payroll system. Awards processed through payroll will include a**

payroll tax deduction. Students who receive stipend payments for their work on *The Michigan Daily* are considered to be employees.

Award payments for winners and finalists without an employment relationship with the university will be processed through the university's accounts payable (PeoplePay) system as non-employees. For award recipients fitting this category, taxes will not be withheld at the time of payment. It will instead be reflected in their tax filing/tax return for the year.

Federal and state taxes will be withheld on all award payments to Non-Resident Aliens (NRAs), regardless of employment status.

Winners receiving prize money of \$600 or more in aggregate over the calendar year will receive a Form 1099 - MISC (NRAs will receive a Form 1042-S). All students not employed by the university still have an obligation to report their winnings on their taxes and failure to do so may result in interest and penalties if audited by the IRS.

Resources for Hopwood Contestants

Submissions Workshops. The Hopwood Program Manager offers one in-person and one virtual submissions workshop during the fall semester. These informational sessions provide an overview of the submissions process and offer contestants an opportunity to ask questions. Submissions workshops will be listed on [Happening @Michigan](#) and on the Hopwood Program website.

Winning Manuscripts from the 2025 Contests

Between October 1st and January 14th, contestants can request limited access to the digital manuscripts of the 2025 winners and finalists for up to five contests at a time. Reviewing manuscripts of previous winners can help contestants gauge the quality of winning manuscripts and review formatting. Please note that the roster of judges changes from year to year; different judges will have different preferences.

Virtual Office Hours

The Hopwood Program Manager will hold virtual office hours on the two days prior to the January contest deadline for contestants to get answers to last-minute questions about formatting and the submissions process.

For more information or to ask questions, contact the Hopwood Program Manager at hopwoodprogram@umich.edu.

Other resources

The Dramatists' Guild [FORMATTING GUIDELINES](#) for playwrights
[Writer Duet](#) offers free and reasonably priced software packages for screenwriters

Listing of Hopwood Award Contests by Eligibility

Contests Open to Undergraduates

Contests open to all undergraduates

Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Poetry
Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Fiction
Hopwood Undergraduate Award in Nonfiction
Hopwood Award in Drama
Hopwood Award for Screenplay
Hopwood Award for the Novel
Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize
Academy of American Poets Prize (Undergraduate)
Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize
Cora Duncan Award in Fiction
David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism
Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing
Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award
Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry
Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry
Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction
Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship
Text/Composition Prize

Contests open only to freshmen and sophomores

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Poetry
Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Fiction
Hopwood First- and Second-Year Contest in Nonfiction
Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

Contests open only to sophomores and juniors

Arthur Miller Award

Contests Open to Graduate Students

Hopwood Graduate Award in Poetry
Hopwood Graduate Award in Fiction
Hopwood Graduate Award in Nonfiction
Hopwood Award in Drama
Hopwood Award for Screenplay
Hopwood Award for the Novel
Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Academy of American Poets Prize (Graduate)
Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize
David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism
Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing
Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry
Text/Composition Prize

Contact Information

For questions about the Hopwood Program's contests and events, please visit us online at <https://lsa.umich.edu/hopwood> or email hopwoodprogram@umich.edu.

Hopwood Program Staff

Hopwood Director	Laura Kasischke
Hopwood Program Manager	Rebecca Manery
Hopwood Administrative Assistant	Grace Johnson
Hopwood Program Assistant	Ava Demar

2025-26 Hopwood Committee

Jim Burnstein
Laura Kasischke
Rebecca Manery (ex-officio)
Aram Mrjoian
Laura Thomas