

2026 BAZZANELLA LITERARY AWARDS

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT CSU SACRAMENTO

COMPETITION RULES

All students currently enrolled at CSU Sacramento during Spring 2026 are eligible to enter. There is no minimum unit requirement, however, students **CANNOT** be auditing courses. Students must have a matriculated classified status of either undergraduate or graduate. The competition will be separated between **undergraduate** and **graduate students** determined by their Spring 2026 class standing. In their particular class standing, **students may enter more than one category** but may submit only **one** entry in a single category. Manuscripts must be original work by the author and must not have been published or have won a prize in a previous literary contest.

FIVE CATEGORIES

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. POETRY | 3. SHORT FICTION |
| 2. CRITICAL ANALYSIS | 4. CREATIVE NONFICTION |
| 5. SCREENWRITING or PLAYWRITING | |
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PRIZES

First-place prize in each category will be \$175

Second-place prize in each category will be \$75

First and Second place winning entries in each category will be published

RULES FOR EACH CATEGORY

Prose manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced with 1" margins, and must have a title on the top of the first page. Poetry may be single-spaced. Do not include a separate title page. Pages must be compiled in a single PDF and also in a separate Word document. The maximum number of words for the **Short Fiction** category is 6000 (approx. 20 pages typed doubled-spaced), for the **Critical Analysis** and **Creative Nonfiction** categories the maximum number is 5000 (approx. 16 pages typed double spaced), not counting bibliography and footnotes, and the **Screenwriting or Playwrighting** category is 6000 (approx. 20 pages typed double-spaced). Manuscripts which exceed the maximum length will not be forwarded to the judges. The category identified as **Critical Analysis** is restricted to essays that analyze a work of art such as novels, poetry, essays, film, music, or some other aesthetic medium. Essays not analyzing an art work should be submitted under the **Creative Nonfiction** category. Students may submit only one poem in the **Poetry** category. Submissions of **Prose Poetry** and/or **Flash Fiction** may be entered in one category only. The Bazzanella Committee reserves the right to change an entry to a different category, which, in their opinion, has been submitted incorrectly. The Committee also reserves the right to not award prizes in every category.

**Submit your entry in a single PDF and in a separate Word Document. Use 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
(Submissions in other formats will not be considered).**

Manuscripts are to be submitted to english@csus.edu

by 5:00PM on Monday, March 2, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted.

Please add in the subject line "Bazzanella Submission (Category) – First name, Last name."

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Please Read Carefully

Manuscripts that do not conform to these guidelines will not be considered

You will submit three things with each entry:

1. Manuscript in a Single PDF and in a separate Word Document (see below for information)
2. Submission Form (see below for information)
3. Contact Information (see below for information)

Your manuscript should:

- Have a title at the top of the first page
- Organized in a single PDF and a separate Word document
- Have the pages numbered
- Be double spaced with 1" margins
- Use Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- **Not** contain your name (anywhere)

Your submission form (separate PDF) should state the following:

- Title of manuscript
- Category (Poetry, Short Fiction, Critical Analysis, or Creative Non-Fiction)
- Your graduate or undergraduate level

Contact Information (separate PDF) should state the following:

- Full Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- E-mail address
- Student ID (MUST include this as it is the only way a check can be awarded)
- Your graduate or undergraduate level
- Title of manuscript and category
- **AND the type of computer program you used**

Please compile an email with each of these uploaded PDFs and also in a separate Word Document: three (3) total, plus one (1) Word document.

Entries should be submitted to the English Department at english@csus.edu. There is a separate judge for each of the five categories. The judges are not members of the current Staff or Faculty of Sacramento State. The judges' decisions are final. At the least, a total of five submissions in a single category must be received for a category to be judged. Winners will be notified by phone the week of April 1st. We will publish first and second place winning entries in the yearly Bazzanella booklet. If you do not want your entry published, you should not enter it in this contest. All submissions (via email and PDF) will be kept until September 30, 2026, and then discarded.

BAZZANELLA AWARDS CEREMONY

**There will be an awards ceremony and reception for the winners and their guests on
Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Engrained Restaurant
First floor of the University Union.**

All questions regarding the contest must be addressed to
Dr. Rosa Angélica Martínez, Department of English
rosa.martinez@csus.edu