



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT<sup>®</sup>  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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## 2020 DWC PRO APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Genre (circle): Poetry Fiction Non-Fiction

How did you hear about DWC Pro? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you taken other creative writing classes at the DWC? (Please list.)

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Have you taken other creative writing classes elsewhere? (Please list.)

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Tell us the last three books you read. \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Please continue to application attachments and checklist.)*

# DWC PRO APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS

**PERSONAL STATEMENT.** On a separate page, please write a one-page personal statement briefly describing your writing history, and what you hope to achieve by enrolling in DWC PRO. Please type.

**WORK SAMPLE.** All work samples must be typed, and should include only writing that you have produced yourself within the past five years. Please make sure your name is on each page of your work sample. Work samples should be stapled or bound with a paperclip (no fancy binders, please). Samples will be recycled after they are reviewed, and cannot be returned.

● **FOR POETS.** Please submit 7 to 10 poems, up to a maximum of 12 pages. Please do not include more than one poem per page.

● **FOR FICTION WRITERS AND CREATIVE NON-FICTION WRITERS.** One short story or essay, or a chapter of a longer work, up to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

\_\_\_\_\_ Application cover sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ Work sample

\_\_\_\_\_ 1-page personal statement

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-refundable \$50 application fee, made payable to YMCA (If you are not accepted, this fee will provide you a one-year membership to the DWC.)

**POSTMARK DEADLINE: September 10, 2020.**

**Please send all required materials to:**

**The Arts Branch of the YMCA  
Attn: DWC PRO  
340 Montgomery St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202**

# About DWC PRO

DWC PRO is a two-year intensive program for creative writers who are serious about honing their craft and growing their careers. Our program is designed especially for writers who will benefit from focused study—the same kind offered by an MFA program, but without relocation or high cost. As a DWC PRO student, you will take advanced courses, receive individual feedback, and work with established writers who will mentor you as you complete a manuscript that is publication-ready.

For Fall 2020, we will accept applications for a new cohort of PRO students in Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction. To apply for the program, students must complete an application and submit a work sample, which will be reviewed by program faculty. No more than eight students can be enrolled in a DWC PRO genre at a given time, as we limit the workshop size to eight students.

**REQUIRED COURSEWORK:** DWC PRO is a two-year program. Students must complete three courses in each season of the program (Fall, Winter and Spring of each year). These courses include:

- The advanced workshop in their selected genre.
- A literature or craft course (in seasons 1-5).
- An individual tutorial with a DWC PRO faculty member (doubled in season six, for thesis work).
- Attendance at at least one DWC visiting author reading in each season, and attendance at readings by any visiting authors with whom the student has an individual conference (see below).

The workshop and lit/craft courses require weekly participation at the DWC facility; the individual tutorial will generally be conducted through email. In total, students must complete a total of 11 required courses and six one-on-one mentorships (the lit/craft course is optional in the final season of the program, and the mentorship time is doubled, so that students may focus on their final manuscript).

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAM BENEFITS:** Aside from required coursework, DWC PRO students receive:

- Three years of DWC Membership (two years while enrolled, and one year after completing the program).
- Individual conferences with two Visiting Authors during their second year of the program.
- A free class of their choice (optional) in the summer session between year one and year two.
- Participation in a DWC PRO Graduate Reading in their final season of the program.

**TUITION:** DWC PRO tuition varies based on the student's Greater Syracuse YMCA membership status.

- For YMCA members, the total two-year cost is \$2400 (this accounts for the YMCA's "free DWC class per season benefit), billed in six seasonal installments of \$400.
- For non-members, the total two-year cost is \$2850, billed in six seasonal installments of \$475.

These prices includes all coursework and program benefits. Students may need to purchase books for some courses. Students are required to make payments at the beginning of each

of the program's six seasons (\$400 for YMCA Members, \$475 for non-members). Currently, financial assistance is not available for the DWC PRO program. *For students taking DWC PRO as a three-year program, payments are still due on the two-year schedule (only course work is extended).*

**APPLICATION AND DEADLINE:** Applications must be postmarked by September 10, 2020. A \$50, non-refundable application fee is due along with the application; students who are not accepted into the program will receive a free DWC membership for one year.

## More DWC PRO Information / FAQs:

**What is a certificate program?** The DWC PRO program is a plan of study for serious writers; upon successfully completing the two-year program, participating students will receive a certificate verifying that they have met all of the requirements for the program, which includes a total of 17 courses and individual mentorship sessions, and the completion of a final book-length manuscript of either poetry, short fiction or creative non-fiction.

**What will my certificate be good for?** We wish we could tell you that your certificate will be a ticket to publication, riches, fame, and acclaim. Unfortunately, we can guarantee none of those things—and neither can a graduate degree program. We view the certificate as a tangible sign that for two years, you have dedicated yourself to your writing in a serious way—and that you have something to show for it, in the form of a completed manuscript.

**Can I enroll for more than one genre of writing?** The short answer is “no.” But the longer answer is more fun. There is a certain degree of inflexibility due to the amount of coursework which must be taken—it wouldn't be possible, time wise, to complete the requirements for both the poetry and fiction programs (for example) simultaneously. However, literature courses will be offered in all genres, and students may choose to enroll in whichever literature class they desire—even one that falls outside of their usual genre. In fact, we would encourage students to take at least one literature course from “the other side of the fence” during their time in DWC PRO.

**What happens if I need to leave the program for a period of time? Can I stop for a while, and then pick up where I left off?** This program is designed for those adults who might not have the flexibility for a traditional graduate program; therefore, we do make allowances for students who may need to take a season or two off for personal reasons. Students who simply do not have time for the complete DWC PRO course load in a given term may also choose to enroll in a single DWC workshop, but they will be required to pay the usual DWC member fee, and the course will not be counted towards their DWC PRO requirements. Students who leave DWC PRO for an entire year or longer will have to apply to re-enter the program. **Since 2012, we have offered a “Three-Year Plan” for DWC PRO;** for more information, call our workshops coordinator at (315) 474-6851 x380.

**Can courses I've already taken at the DWC, or other literary arts centers, count towards my course requirements for DWC PRO?** No.

**What should I include in my artist's statement?** We'd like to know more about you, and your reasons for being interested in the DWC PRO program. We'd especially like to know more about your writing history, your interests as a writer and reader, and especially, what you hope to gain from this two-year program of study.

**When will I hear if I have been admitted to DWC PRO?** We hope to notify all applicants

of our decisions by September 20, 2020. If you do not hear from us by that date, please feel free to contact us.

**When will my first payment be due, if I am accepted?** If you are admitted to DWC PRO, the payment for your first season (Fall 2020) will be due by September 30th.

**If I don't get into DWC PRO the first time, can I re-apply?** Absolutely. Space in the program is limited, and not all applicants will get in the first time they apply. If you are not admitted to the program, we will provide you with some feedback on your application, so that you know what to work on before the next year's deadline.

**How large are DWC PRO classes?** The maximum enrollment in any DWC PRO workshop course usually is 9 students; for craft/literature courses, the cut-off is 12.

**Are all of the classes writing workshops?** No. Each DWC PRO writer will enroll in the advanced level workshop in their genre each semester. They will also take one class focused on literature or the craft of writing (usually 1.5 hours each week) in each season, and enroll in one-on-one mentorships. So the experience is quite varied each season.

**Where can I park when I come to the Downtown Y?** Street parking is generally available within a block of the Downtown YMCA, on either Montgomery or Jefferson streets. There is also parking at the Warren Street Parking Garage, which has a corridor to the YMCA's lobby. Finally, there is often street parking on Warren Street, outside of the garage... you can then access the YMCA through the garage's entrance. ***As of this writing (August 2020), all programs are offered online until further notice.***

**Is there homework? Yes indeed! All PRO students are expected to come to class having** completed any required reading or other assignments assigned by the instructor. It is especially important that all students come to workshop prepared to discuss their peers' work.

**Are there attendance requirements?** Yes. Students are expected to attend all scheduled courses regularly. If students are absent from a course too frequently, they will not receive credit for that course towards their graduation requirements. Missing more than two of a course's scheduled eight sessions will result in a loss of credit. Such courses must be made up, at the student's added expense, in order to graduate.

**What if my question isn't answered here?** Email DWC workshops coordinator Georgia Popoff at [dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org](mailto:dwcworkshops@ymcacny.org), or call (315) 474-6851 x380.

## **A Final Note**

DWC PRO is designed to be rigorous. We take the coursework requirements seriously, and in order for the program to have any meaning at all, it is important that our students take it seriously as well. Earning a college degree requires that students not simply pay tuition, but also meet the various requirements for graduation; DWC PRO functions in precisely the same way. We are always happy to work with students who need longer than the regular two years to fulfill their graduation requirements; but DWC PRO certificates will not be issued to students who fail to meet the requirements set forth by the program's administration and faculty. Please be prepared to make a strong commitment to your writing during your time in the program!