English Department Prizes 2026

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Wagenheim Prizes for English majors
$500 for the best literary essay
$500 for the best short story

Rachel St. Paul Poetry Prize
$500 for the best group of poems by any UVA undergraduate

Hannah Kahn Poetry Prize
$200 for best poem by a fourth-year English major

Hannah Kahn Essay on Poetry Prize
$350 for the best essay on poetry by any undergraduate

GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Academy of American Poets Prize
$300 for the best poem or group of poems by a graduate student in English

Balch Prize for a graduate student in English
$300 for the best short story

Balch Prize for a master's student in English
$500 for the best MA thesis
This prize has a later deadline of April 15

Thomas J. Griffis Prizes for graduate students in English
$1,000 for the best essay by a student in the first year of graduate work
$1,500 for the best essay by a student beyond the first year

Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026, five p.m. EST
For more details or to submit your work online, go to https://uvacwp.org/prizes

Poster design by Emily Ma