

CREATIVE WRITING, MFA

Banner Code: LA-MFA-CW

Academic Advising

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Fairfax Campus

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The MFA in creative writing is a three-year residency program offering tracks in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Students in the program are members of a literary community that includes Watershed Lit: Center for Literary Engagement and Publishing Practice, a student-organized program of readings, two journals, and a Visiting Writers series. Resident faculty members include recipients of prestigious writing awards such as the Guggenheim Foundation, the Yale Series of Younger Poets, the Lannan Foundation, the Whiting Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). For information specific to the MFA in creative writing, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://english.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-MFA-CW/>) on the departmental website.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 48

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses

Literature

Code	Title	Credits
Literature		
Select two to four of the following courses in consultation with an advisor ¹		6-12
ENGH 511	Graduate Literature Survey	
ENGH 513	Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies	

ENGH 685	Selected Topics, Movements, or Genres of Literature in English	
ENGH 683	Proseminar in Fiction	
ENGH 684	Proseminar in Poetry	
Other applicable ENGH courses with advisor approval		
Craft Seminars		
Six to twelve credits of		6-12
ENGH 608	Craft Seminars ²	
Other Genre		3
Workshop		1
ENGH 699	Visiting Writers	
Total Credits		16-28

¹ ENGH 798 Directed Reading and Research may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

² This course may be repeated for credit.

Concentration in Fiction (FIC)

Code	Title	Credits
ENGH 566	Forms of Fiction	3
ENGH 683	Proseminar in Fiction	3
Writing Workshops		9
ENGH 618	Fiction Writing Workshop	
ENGH 751	Advanced Workshop in Fiction Writing	
Total Credits		15

Concentration in Nonfiction Writing (NFW)

Code	Title	Credits
ENGH 506	Research for Narrative Writing ¹	3
ENGH 565	Forms of Nonfiction	3
Writing Workshops		9
ENGH 616	Nonfiction Writing Workshop	
ENGH 752	Advanced Workshop in Nonfiction Writing	
Total Credits		15

¹ Students should enroll the first semester it is offered after they enter the program.

Concentration in Poetry (POE)

Code	Title	Credits
ENGH 564	Form of Poetry	3
ENGH 684	Proseminar in Poetry	3
Writing Workshops		9
ENGH 617	Poetry Writing Workshop	
ENGH 750	Advanced Workshop in Poetry Writing	
Total Credits		15

Poetry Exam

Students in poetry must pass a written MFA exam based on the authors they have chosen. The authors are selected in collaboration with the writing faculty any time after completing 12 credits of course work and

before completing 32 credits. The exam must be completed at least one semester before the student registers for the final 3 credits of thesis.

Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select up to 12 credits from electives in consultation with the writing program faculty ¹		12
Total Credits		12

¹ The number of electives will vary according to the number of literature courses and workshops that students take.

Thesis

ENGH 798 Directed Reading and Research may not be used as thesis preparation. Students who want to register for thesis credits in the summer need the permission of the thesis committee.

Students should be aware of the university policies governing theses. They must follow the thesis enrollment policy and once enrolled in ENGH 799 Thesis, maintain continuous enrollment. These policies are specified in AP.6.9.3 Master's Thesis (<https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9-3>).

Code	Title	Credits
Thesis		6
ENGH 799	Thesis	
Total Credits		6

Program Outcomes

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1. Students will develop and refine their literary voices and aesthetics.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of literary traditions and forms.
3. Students will gain knowledge and strategies toward their professional development.
4. Students will analyze published works and develop the language for critical discussion.
5. Students will produce and submit an approved creative thesis.