

CREATIVE WRITING, MFA

Banner Code: LA-MFA-CW

Academic Advising

A487 Robinson Hall
Fairfax Campus

Email: englgrad@gmu.edu

Website: creativewriting.gmu.edu/programs/la-mfa-cw

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 a student-organized program of readings, potluck dinners with faculty, three journals, a student-run publisher—Stillhouse Press—and the annual Fall for the Book literary festival. 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. 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.

Reduction of Credit

With the approval of the MFA faculty, the program director, and the dean, the number of credits required for an MFA may be reduced by a maximum of 23 credits on the basis of graduate course work before admission.

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

Literature

Select two to four courses in consultation with an advisor ¹ 6-12

Craft Seminars

Six to twelve credits of 6-12

ENGH 608 Craft Seminars ²

Workshop 1

ENGH 699	Workshop in English	
Total Credits		13-25

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)

ENGH 566	Forms of Fiction	3
Writing Workshops		9
ENGH 618	Fiction Writing Workshop	
ENGH 751	Advanced Workshop in Fiction Writing	
Total Credits		12

Concentration in Nonfiction Writing (NFW)

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)

ENGH 564	Form of Poetry	3
Writing Workshops		9
ENGH 617	Poetry Writing Workshop	
ENGH 750	Advanced Workshop in Poetry Writing	
Select at least one course in another genre (fiction or nonfiction) ¹		3
Total Credits		15

¹ This requirement may be filled by a section of ENGH 608 Craft Seminars in another genre.

Electives

Select up to 15 credits from electives in consultation with the writing program faculty ¹	15
Total Credits	15

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

Exam or Project

Poetry Concentration

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.

Fiction and Nonfiction Concentration

Students in fiction and nonfiction writing must pass an MFA exam or complete an MFA project.

Students who elect to take the MFA exam select, after the completion of 18 credits and with the approval of their faculty advisors, a list of authors and an area of emphasis (for example, the European novel). Students who elect to complete an MFA project (such as editing an anthology) must carry out the project under the direction of a faculty member and may register for ENGH 798 Directed Reading and Research to fulfill this requirement. The project must be completed at least one semester before the student registers for the final 3 credits of thesis.

ENGH 798	Directed Reading and Research	1-6
Total Credits		1-6

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.

Thesis		6
ENGH 799	Thesis	
Total Credits		6