Twin Cities Campus

Creative Writing M.F.A.

English Language & Literature
College of Liberal Arts

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
Department of English, 222 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-625-6366; fax: 612-624-8228)
Email: creawrit@umn.edu
Website: http://cla.umn.edu/creative-writing

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Fall 2019
- Length of program in credits: 45
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Fine Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The creative writing program in the Department of English offers the master of fine arts (MFA) degree for students committed to pursuing the writing life. This three-year degree provides advanced, graduate-level coursework in writing, language, and literature, as well as study in a related field. The third year of the program focuses on the final development of a book-length manuscript suitable for publication. At the heart of the program are writing workshops in poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction, and courses in the "Reading as Writers" and "Topics in Advanced Writing" series, which enable writers to explore a variety of issues relating to contemporary themes in American and world literature. The program encourages experimentation across genres, fostering the discovery of new and varied forms for a developing voice. Students also have the opportunity to work editorially on "Great River Review," the graduate literary magazine.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

The program does not require a graduate degree for admission.

Special Application Requirements:
The MFA in Creative Writing does not require undergraduate work in English literature or an undergraduate degree in literature. Students come from a variety of educational backgrounds and life experiences. Applicants should be aware, however, that graduate coursework in literature and/or language is required once admitted to the program.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
  - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
  - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
  - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
  - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
  - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
  - Final score: 80

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

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Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 42 major credits and 3 credits outside the major.The is no final exam.A capstone project is required.
Capstone Project: The capstone project is a publishable thesis manuscript of poetry, fiction, or literary nonfiction. The final exam is an oral defense of the thesis manuscript and literary essay.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Required Courses (8 credits)
Take the following courses:
ENGW 8101 - Reading Across Genres (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8180 - Thesis Seminar: Multi-Genre (4.0 cr)

Literature/Language Electives (10 credits)
Select coursework from the following in consultation with the advisor. At least 3 credits must be from ENGL courses. Other courses can be applied to this requirement with advisor and director of graduate studies approval.
ENGL 5020 - Studies in Narrative (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5040 - Theories of Film (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5090 - Readings in Special Subjects (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
ENGL 5110 - Medieval Literatures and Cultures: Intro to Medieval Studies (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5121 - Readings in Early Modern Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5140 - Readings in 18th Century Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5150 - Readings in 19th-Century Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5170 - Readings in 20th-Century Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5300 - Readings in American Minority Literature (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5501 - Origins of Cultural Studies (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5510 - Readings in Criticism and Theory (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5593 - The African-American Novel (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5597 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
ENGL 5701 - Great River Review (4.0 cr)
ENGL 5743 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
ENGL 5790 - Topics in Rhetoric, Composition, and Language (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5805 - Writing for Publication (3.0 cr)
ENGL 5992 - Directed Readings, Study, or Research (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
ENGL 8090 - Seminar in Special Subjects (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8110 - Seminar: Medieval Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8120 - Seminar in Early Modern Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8140 - Seminar in 18th Century Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8150 - Seminar in Shakespeare (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8170 - Seminar in 19th-Century British Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8180 - Seminar in 20th-Century British Literature and Culture (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8190 - Seminar in 20th-Century Anglophone Literatures and Cultures (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8200 - Seminar in American Literature (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8290 - Topics, Figures, and Themes in American Literature (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8300 - Seminar in American Minority Literature (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8600 - Seminar in Language, Rhetoric, Literacy, and Composition (3.0 cr)
ENGL 8610 - Seminar in Language and Discourse Studies (3.0 cr)
ENGW 5130 - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5310 - Reading as Writers (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5701 - Great River Review (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5993 - Directed Study in Writing (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
ENGW 8110 - Seminar: Writing of Fiction (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8120 - Seminar: Writing of Poetry (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8130 - Seminar: Writing of Literary Nonfiction (4.0 cr)

MFA Creative Thesis (4 credits)
Take ENGW 8990 in consultation with the advisor.
ENGW 8990 - MFA Creative Thesis (2.0 - 8.0 cr)

Creative Writing Electives (4 credits)
Select 4 credits from the following in consultation with the advisor:

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ENGW 5102 - Graduate Fiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5104 - Graduate Poetry Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5106 - Graduate Literary Nonfiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5130 - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5310 - Reading as Writers (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5606W - Literary Aspects of Journalism [WI] (3.0 cr)
ENGW 5701 - Great River Review (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5993 - Directed Study in Writing (1.0 - 4.0 cr)
ENGW 8110 - Seminar: Writing of Fiction (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8120 - Seminar: Writing of Poetry (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8130 - Seminar: Writing of Literary Nonfiction (4.0 cr)

Outside Coursework (3 credits)
Select at least 3 credits outside the English department in consultation with the advisor.

Genres

Fiction Genre (16 credits)
Complete coursework in consultation with advisor. ENGW 5102 must be completed twice.
ENGW 5102 - Graduate Fiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8110 - Seminar: Writing of Fiction (4.0 cr)
Secondary Genre
Select one of the following:
ENGW 5104 - Graduate Poetry Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5106 - Graduate Literary Nonfiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5130 - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)

-OR-

Nonfiction Genre (16 credits)
Complete coursework in consultation with advisor. ENGW 5106 must be completed twice.
ENGW 5106 - Graduate Literary Nonfiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8130 - Seminar: Writing of Literary Nonfiction (4.0 cr)
Secondary Genre
Select one of the following:
ENGW 5102 - Graduate Fiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5104 - Graduate Poetry Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5130 - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)

-OR-

Poetry Genre (16 credits)
Complete coursework in consultation with advisor. ENGW 5104 must be completed twice.
ENGW 5104 - Graduate Poetry Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 8120 - Seminar: Writing of Poetry (4.0 cr)
Secondary Genre
Select one of the following:
ENGW 5102 - Graduate Fiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5106 - Graduate Literary Nonfiction Writing (4.0 cr)
ENGW 5130 - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)

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