

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is a two-year low-residency program of study leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree, with a genre of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, or writing for stage and screen, and concentrations in publishing/editing, spiritual writing, social justice, and literary health and healing. Students attend two annual nine-day residencies. Each residency is followed by a five-month independent course of study during spring and fall semesters with a single faculty mentor. A total of 60 credits are needed for graduation, including four residencies, four independent study semesters in the craft of the student's choice, a critical thesis, a creative thesis, and a final public presentation and reading by the student.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
ENGL 5441	Fiction ¹	24
or ENGL 5442	Non-Fiction	
or ENGL 5443	Poetry	
or ENGL 5444	Stage and Screen	
ENGL 5991	Independent Study: Fiction ¹	36
or ENGL 5992	Independent Study: Non-Fiction	
or ENGL 5993	Independent Study: Poetry	
or ENGL 5994	Independent Study: Stage and Screen	

¹ Each course is repeated for four or five semesters.

Learning Goals

The MFA program's **broad learning goals** are twofold, achieved through the accumulation of objectives derived from four residencies and four mentorships:

- To develop a writer's quality of work and the development of their craft in a chosen genre
- To deepen and enhance a writer's critical language and critical reading ability

Learning Objectives

The program has distinct **learning objectives** as for the two distinct learning environments of the residency setting and the mentorship semesters; each student completes four of both and moves from introductory, to proficient, to mastering the following:

Residency:

- *Increase* student facility to provide incisive criticism in genre to peers, both through written and oral feedback
- *Increase* student development of craft knowledge through the attendance of faculty-led seminars
- *Gain a broad understanding* of professional standards and practices through the attendance of readings and presentations
- *Utilize* the analysis of master literary texts to develop craft language and literacy
- *Practice professional activities:* give readings, provide introductions, give craft talks.

Mentorship:

- *Develop* an increasingly sophisticated critical language about craft
- *Apply* craft literacy to the composition and revision of original work in primary genre
- *Develop* a sustained revision practice that reflects a sophisticated understanding of how to improve the elements of the primary genre
- *Read* widely in the chosen genre as well as secondary genres that will assist in deepening awareness of craft