# 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] | 6 |
| or ENGL 5442 | Non-Fiction | |
| or ENGL 5443 | Poetry | |
| or ENGL 5444 | Stage and Screen | |
| ENGL 5991 | Independent Study: Fiction [1] | 1-9 |
| 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