

MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Degree Requirements:

Students first complete the 3-semester MA in Creative Writing before continuing on (following a Letter of Interest and acceptance from the program director) to the MFA for two additional semesters.

MFA = 49 Credits (30 credits from the MA in Creative Writing + 19 additional credits)

Students continuing on to the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing will revise their Master of Arts thesis based on the feedback of their outside reader (an agent, editor, director, or producer) to produce a publishable manuscript, or begin a new project in the same genre or a different genre from their MA thesis. Additionally, they will produce and present a literary analysis paper, complete a term-long internship in teaching or publishing, and submit a final portfolio that chronicles their work in the entire program, all of which demonstrate their understanding and utilization of their literary tradition and the best practices of teaching pedagogy or the publishing/writing industry.

First MFA Semester: CW 612: Literary Analysis (6 credits)

MFA Residency: CW 616R (3 credits)

Second MFA Semester: CW 614: Project Revision (3 credits) and CW 620: Internship in Creative Writing (6 credits)

Final MFA Residency: CW 650R (1 credit)

CW 612: Literary Analysis

Acknowledging and understanding the diverse forms, styles, and ongoing tradition of the student's chosen literary genre.

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the breadth and depth of knowledge of the historical context and tradition of the range of forms, conventions, and styles within their selected major area.
2. demonstrate an understanding of the literary tradition and where their own work lives within that literary spectrum.
3. demonstrate mastery of literary analysis by writing a formal MFA level extensive craft paper (25+ pages).
4. demonstrate a mastery of an oral presentation that is a cutting of the extensive formal essay (15 minutes).

CW 620: Internship in Creative Writing

Students will either teach creative writing or intern at a publisher or writing organization.

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of how best to teach or work in a variety of artists-in-residency or publishing venues.

2. demonstrate competency in the best practices of teaching creative writing or in the business of supporting writers and their work in a publishing or writing organization.
3. demonstrate mastery of genre-specific elements at all levels, both to teach and to model those elements.

CW 650: The Professional Writer

An abbreviated (2-day) residency workshop on the Life of a Writer, post-MFA: querying and submitting to agents and editors; marketing your work; networking among readers and writers; literary citizenship; making money as a writer.

The Final MFA Portfolio

At the end of the student's MFA experience they will submit a final portfolio, demonstrating their understanding of the best practices of effective teaching and sustaining creative work, including the ability to critique and facilitate the creative work of others honestly and vigorously while continuing to produce one's own creative work.

Final M.F.A. portfolio will include:

1. revised M.A. thesis (or a new project in the same or a different genre);
2. 25-50 page craft chapter or essay;
3. copies of materials developed and written during the internship;
4. final annotated bibliography of readings from the entire program;
5. final summary of program work vis-à-vis a self-analysis paper.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. understand the legal and ethical standards and the practical issues of the teaching or publishing profession, and demonstrate that knowledge in the residencies and portfolio work of the program;
2. demonstrate competency in the best practices of creative writing pedagogy or the business practices of the publishing industry;
3. demonstrate advanced writing competency in their own creative work;
4. demonstrate an advanced knowledge of contemporary literature in their area of study in an oral and written presentation of their analysis of assigned texts.

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MFA Residency #1 (same as MA Residency #4)

Students will begin the MFA coursework during the final MA residency, known as the Capstone residency (CW 525R), by attending additional modules taught by faculty with advanced degrees. Students will receive a formal reading list from their CW 612 faculty and develop their analysis plan in those meetings.

Project Term #1 -CW 612. Literary Analysis

6 Credits

Reading, analyzing, and preparing an extensive (25-50 page) graduate paper that demonstrates the students' understanding of the history, tradition, various forms, and diverse styles of contemporary literature in one area of study--fiction, creative nonfiction, film, drama, or poetry. Reading list will be provided by the faculty and students' approach to their essays must be approved by faculty mentor and the Program Director. A formal presentation of this essay will take place at the subsequent residency, CW 616R.

CW 614. Revision Term

3 credits

Students will either continue to work with a faculty mentor to revise their MA creative thesis and prepare it for publication/production OR begin a new project, either building upon the strengths of the Master of Arts thesis or in a new genre previously studied in the first (Foundations) MA semester. This course may be taken alongside CW 612 in this term or alongside CW 620 in the final term.

Residency #2 -- CW 616R. Writing in Education/ Publishing

3 Credits/Residency Course

Students will be required to make a formal presentation of their CW 612 literary analysis essay. Students will complete work generated by team-taught modules to prepare them for an internship in teaching, publishing, or a writing organization. They will meet with peers and faculty to create and deliver mini-lesson plans for proposed courses or a study plan in publishing or some other writing organization. Such work must draw upon the best practices of the industry. By week's end, students will have an internship plan and internship supervisor assigned to them.

Project Term #2 -- CW 620. Practicum

6 Credits

Students will either teach creative writing or intern with a writing organization such as a magazine, small press, or literary agency. Students will document their work by way of portfolios and will be supervised by a faculty mentor. In whatever experience students select, they must demonstrate student contact hours of no fewer than 40 hours per term for teaching and 20 hours per week for internships with writing organizations. Students will present a final analysis of their teaching or publishing experience at term's end.

CW 630. Continuous Registration

1-6 Credits

This optional course allows students to continually register when needed for further revision in preparation of their final project or to experience an independent study in a second genre.

CW. CREATIVE WRITING

CW-501. R. FOUNDATIONS OF CREATIVE WRITING

Credits: 3- Residency Course

Orientation to the program; lessons in five genres; craft lessons; alumni panels; faculty panels; workshops; readings.

CW-502. WRITING FICTION

Credits: 3

This is an intermediate course in writing fiction. Students will study, explore, and practice the process, form, and discipline of writing fiction. Students will write and analyze a variety of short fiction samples that demonstrates their understanding of basic fiction elements, point of view, and narrative style.

CW-503. WRITING POETRY

Credits: 3

This is an intermediate course in writing poetry. Students will study, explore, and practice the process, form, and discipline of writing poetry. Students will write and analyze a variety of poems that demonstrate their understanding of basic poetic elements, diverse forms, and poetic style.

CW-504. WRITING SCREENPLAYS

Credits: 3

This is an intermediate course in writing screenplays. Students will study, explore, and practice the process, form, and discipline of writing screenplays. Students will write and analyze a variety of scenes that demonstrate your understanding of basic film design, diverse forms, and cinematic styles.

CW-505. WRITING PLAYS

Credits: 3

An intermediate level course in writing plays. Students will explore, study and practice the process, forms, and discipline of writing all forms of stage plays. Students will write and analyze a variety of scenes and short plays that demonstrate their understanding of the basic stage elements, theatrical conversations, and dramatic forms.

CW-506. WRITING CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Credits: 3

This is an intermediate level course in writing creative nonfiction. Students will explore, study and practice the process, forms, and discipline of writing all forms of creative nonfiction. Students will write and analyze a variety of short creative nonfiction samples that demonstrate their understanding of basic narrative elements, point of view, factual research, and narrative prose styles.

CW-510. R. PLANNING THE WRITING LIFE**Credits:** 3- Residency Course

Students create project outlines and writing proposals for drafting new work in the major field of study area. Courses in research methods; lessons in *craft*, *community*, and *career*; intro to oral interpretation for writers; lectures and required readings; meetings with faculty mentors.

CW-512. GENRE AND CONTEXT**Credits:** 3**CW 512F. Genre and Context in Fiction**

Students will read, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon fiction reading list with a mentor writer. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512P. Genre and Context in Poetry

Students will read, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon poetry reading list with a mentor writer. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512S. Genre and Context in Screenwriting

Students will read and view, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon film reading list with a mentor writer. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512L. Genre and Context in Playwriting

Students will read and view, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon playwriting reading list with a mentor writer. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512N. Genre and Context in Nonfiction.

Students will read, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon nonfiction reading list with a mentor writer. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512U. Genre and Context in Publishing.

Students will research, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon publishing house list with a mentor editor/publisher. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned company and complete an annotated bibliography (of the list approved by the writer mentor).

CW 512D. Genre and Context in Making Documentary Films

Students will read and view, analyze, critique, and discuss in-depth their agreed upon documentary film reading/viewing list with a mentor filmmaker. Individually the student will write responses to each assigned text and complete an annotated bibliography (of the reading list approved by the mentor).

CW-514. DRAFTING PROJECT**Credits:** 3**CW 514F. Drafting Project in Fiction**

Students will complete a draft of a new work in fiction that may include a novel, story collection, linked story collection, or novella. All proposed projects must be approved by the writer mentor and program director.

CW 514P. Drafting Project in Poetry

Students will complete a draft of a new work in poetry that may include a chapbook, collection, or novel in verse. All proposed projects must be approved by the writer mentor and program director.

CW 514S. Drafting Project in Screenwriting

Students will complete a draft of a new work in screenwriting that may include many of various feature-length film genres. All proposed projects must be approved by the writer mentor and program director.

CW 514L. Drafting Project in Playwriting

Students will complete a draft of a new work in playwriting that may include a full-length play, an extended one-act, or a collection of one-act plays. All proposed projects must be approved by the writer mentor and program director.

CW 514N. Drafting Project in Nonfiction

Students will complete a draft of a new work in nonfiction that may include a collection of essays, memoir, biography, or another related nonfiction form. All proposed projects must be approved by the writer mentor and program director.

CW 514U. Drafting Project in Publishing

Students will complete a draft of an overall business plan, mission, goals statements, and creative strategy to build their own publishing company, journal, or other approved publishing project. All proposed projects must be approved by the mentor and program director.

CW 514D. Drafting Project in Making Documentary Films

Students will complete the research, writing, and preliminary filming for a documentary film project. All proposed projects must be approved by the mentor and program director.

CW-516. R. PROJECT/THESIS PLAN**Credits:** 3- Residency Course

Students in CW 516 will participate in a workshop prior to the residency, to get feedback on their writing in CW 514. They will attend the Capstone readings, craft lessons, a workshop on "The Long Form" and an Oral Interpretation class, as well as preparing for, and (at the end of the week participating in) a "pitch" session with agents and editors to help them to narrow the focus of their thesis project.

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CW-520. FINAL PROJECT

Credits: 6

CW 520F. Final Project/Fiction Thesis

CW 520P. Final Project/Poetry Thesis

CW 520S. Final Project/Screenwriting Thesis

CW 520L. Final Project/Playwriting Thesis

CW 520N. Final Project/Nonfiction Thesis

CW 520U. Final Project/Publishing Thesis

Students will revise, polish, and prepare their final M.A. project for review by an outside evaluator who will be an agent, producer, publisher, or editor, depending upon the course project. All proposed projects must be approved by the mentor and program director.

CW-525. R. MASTERS CAPSTONE

Credits: 3- Residency Course

The final presentation and public reading of each M.A. students' completed writing project. Each work will receive a written critique and final reading by an agent, editor, producer, or director. This residency week will include several seminars and workshops aimed at moving the individual project towards its appropriate public venue.

CW-530. CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

Credits: 1-6

This course allows students to continually register where needed for further revision in preparation of their final project. Students must continually register until revisions are complete or they complete the required capstone.

CW-612. LITERARY ANALYSIS

Credits: 6

Reading and analyzing full-length works in one genre, and writing an extensive graduate essay (25-50 pages) that demonstrates the student's understanding of the history, tradition, various forms, and diverse styles of contemporary literature in one area of study-fiction, creative nonfiction, film, drama, or poetry--focusing on a particular theme or craft element. Reading list will be provided by the faculty and students' essays' approach must be approved by faculty mentor and the Program Director. Must follow MFA format, include an annotated bibliography. Students present a formal 15-minute presentation at the subsequent residency to complete this course.

Pre-Requisites

Acceptance into the MFA program.

CW-614. REVISION TERM

Credits: 3

Students will have the opportunity to continue to work with a faculty mentor to revise their creative thesis and prepare it for publication/production OR begin a new project, built upon the strengths of the Master of Arts thesis.

CW-616. R. WRITING IN EDUCATION/PUBLISHING

Credits: 3- Residency Course

Students will be required to make a formal paper presentation during this residency to complete CW 612. Students will complete work generated by team-taught modules to prepare them for either a teaching or publishing internship. They will meet with peers, mentoring faculty and create and deliver mini-lesson plans for proposed courses or a study plan in publishing. Such work must be drawn upon the best practices of the pedagogy of teaching creative writing or working in publishing in a variety of settings. Students will continue to sharpen their own oral and writing skills as they build an acceptable syllabus, course materials/internship goals for an internship and sample lessons/work plan by week's end. By week's end, students will have an internship experience and internship supervisor assigned to them.

Pre-Requisites

[[CW-612]]

CW-620. WRITING IN EDUCATION/PUBLISHING INTERNSHIP

Credits: 6

Students will be required to teach creative writing in one or several various educational venues OR complete an internship with a magazine, small press, literary agency or other writing organization. Students will document their work through student portfolios and will be supervised by a faculty mentor. In whatever experience students select, they must demonstrate student contact hours of no fewer than 40 hours per term for teaching and 20 hours per week for publishing/writing organization internships. Students will present a final analysis of their teaching or publishing experience in writing and orally at term's end.

Pre-Requisites

3.5 or better GPA and completion of CW 616R

CW-630. CONTINUOUS REGISTRATION

Credits: 1-6

This course allows students to continually register where needed for further revision in preparation of their final project. Students must continually register until revisions are complete or they complete the required capstone.

CW-650. THE PROFESSIONAL WRITER

Credits: 1

A one-credit "capstone" class that requires graduating MFA students to reflect on their graduate experience, demonstrate what they have learned about writing and about the business of writing, map their future writing discipline and goals, and plan their professional lives.