

# CREATIVE WRITING, MFA

Banner Code: LA-MFA-CW

## Academic Advising

4200 Horizon Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Email: [englgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:englgrad@gmu.edu)

Website: [creativewriting.gmu.edu/programs/la-mfa-cw](http://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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/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

Code	Title	Credits
Literature		
Select two to four courses in consultation with an advisor <sup>1</sup>		
		6-12

#### Craft Seminars

Six to twelve credits of	6-12
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ENGH 608	Craft Seminars <sup>2</sup>	1
<b>Workshop</b>		
ENGH 699	Visiting Writers	
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)

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

### Concentration in Nonfiction Writing (NFW)

Code	Title	Credits
ENGH 506	Research for Narrative Writing <sup>1</sup>	3
ENGH 565	Forms of Nonfiction	3
Writing Workshops		
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)

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

1

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

### Poetry Exam

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.

## Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select up to 15 credits from electives in consultation with the writing program faculty <sup>1</sup>		15
Total Credits		15

1

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

## 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 (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9-3>).

Code	Title	Credits
Thesis		6
ENGH 799	Thesis	
Total Credits		6

## Program Outcomes

### Program Outcomes

1. Students will develop and refine their literary voices and aesthetics.
2. Students will acquire an understanding of literary traditions and forms.
3. Students will gain knowledge and strategies toward their professional development.
4. Students will analyze published works and develop the language for critical discussion.
5. Students will produce and submit an approved creative thesis.