

CREATIVE WRITING, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (0478)

Program Coordinator

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The MFA program provides students pursuing vocations in creative writing the opportunity to acquire the background and knowledge required to be leading citizens of what Vachel Lindsay calls the "Republic of Letters." The program prepares students for lives as writers of novels, short fiction, creative nonfiction, scripts, and poetry and related pursuits such as teaching, literary editing and publishing. In addition to intensive creative writing, students will complete four classes in a secondary concentration as part of the MFA. Students can select a concentration in literature, composition/rhetoric, or teaching English as a second language in order to give them additional options for employment after graduation. In total, the three year residential program consists of 48 credit hours of graduate course work, culminating in the completion of a publishable creative thesis in fiction, poetry, scriptwriting, or creative nonfiction. All applicants who meet the application deadline are automatically considered for available graduate assistantships teaching introductory writing classes for the English Department.

Concentration(s)

- Composition and Rhetoric (ENCR)
- Literature (ENLI)
- Teaching English as a Second Language (ENTL)

Program Admission

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- A twenty-page creative writing sample consisting of work in at least one of the following genres: fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, or screenwriting. The spacing and formatting of the writing sample should fit conventions of the selected genre.
- A statement of purpose consisting of one or two single-spaced pages describing the applicant's background and interest in creative writing and how the WKU MFA program could help with the applicant's literary pursuits. Students may also briefly address interests, skills, or experiences that make them highly qualified for a graduate assistantship position teaching introductory college writing classes, although teaching skills should only be a small part of the statement of purpose (no more than 25%). Your interest in creative writing and your literary pursuits should be the main focus.
- A one or two-page curriculum vita or resumé
- Although not required, undergraduate creative writing courses are highly recommended

Graduate School Admission

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission/>) of this catalog for Graduate School admission requirements.

Program Requirements (48 hours)

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Required Courses | | |
| ENG 507 | Introduction to Creative Writing Studies | 3 |
| ENG 510 | Graduate Rhetoric and Writing | 3 |
| ENG 512 | Reading as a Writer | 3 |
| ENG 501 | Graduate Writing Workshop | 9 |
| or ENG 403G | Writing Memoir and Autobiography | |
| or ENG 474G | Advanced Poetry Writing | |
| or ENG 475G | Advanced Fiction Workshop | |
| ENG 515 | Internship | 3 |
| ENG 599 | Thesis Research and Writing | 6 |
| Electives ¹ | | |
| | Literature course | 3 |
| | Select 6 additional hours | 6 |
| | Select a concentration | 12 |
| Total Hours | | 48 |

¹ Students may take the six hours of elective courses from any of the concentration courses so long as they have not counted them as part of the core or secondary concentration. In order to earn TESL certification as a secondary concentration, students must complete one TESL course as one of their free electives.

Composition & Rhetoric Concentration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Select 12 hours from the following: | | 12 |
| ENG 401G | Advanced Composition | |
| ENG 402G | Editing and Publishing | |
| ENG 410G | Composition Theory and Practice in Writing Instruction | |
| ENG 412G | Theories of Rhetoric and Persuasive Writing | |
| ENG 415G | Writing and Technology | |
| ENG 597 | Special Topics in English | |
| ENG 598 | Advanced Directed Study | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |

Literature Concentration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Select 12 hours from the following: | | 12 |
| ENG 489G | The British Novel | |
| ENG 490G | American Novel | |
| ENG 493G | American Poetry | |
| ENG 495G | Southern Literature | |
| ENG 497G | Women's Literature | |
| ENG 504 | Studies in American Literature | |
| ENG 514 | Studies in British Literature | |
| ENG 524 | Studies in World Literature | |
| ENG 534 | Studies in Genre | |
| ENG 586 | Seminar in British Writers | |
| ENG 596 | Seminar in American Writers | |
| ENG 597 | Special Topics in English | |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| ENG 598 | Advanced Directed Study | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |

Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Concentration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Select 12 hours from the following: | | 12 |
| ENG 407G | Linguistic Analysis | |
| ENG 408G | Psycholinguistics and Sociolinguistics | |
| ENG 471G | TESL Practicum | |
| ENG 565 | Integrated Teaching English as a Second Language | |
| ENG 566 | Teaching and Testing ESL Grammar | |
| ENG 598 | Advanced Directed Study | |
| Total Hours | | 12 |