CREATIVE WRITING - MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

The MFA in creative writing is a three-year degree program that values literary study, innovation and writing that tests the limits of conventional forms.

The program challenges students to write in a variety of genres and to study literature from the point of view of a working writer. Recent graduates have become not only published authors of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, plays and screenplays, but also journalists, editors, publishers and college-level and secondary-level teachers.

The degree program culminates in the submission and oral defense of a creative thesis in poetry or fiction. Students may develop custom programs in nonfiction and scriptwriting with available faculty with secondary interests in those genres.

Requirements

Required Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature Courses</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose four:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5019</td>
<td>Survey of Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5029</td>
<td>British Literature and Culture Before 1800</td>
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<td>ENGL 5059</td>
<td>British Literature and Culture After 1800</td>
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<td>ENGL 5109</td>
<td>Literature and Culture of the United States</td>
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<td>ENGL 5139</td>
<td>Global Literature and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5169</td>
<td>Multicultural/Postcolonial Studies</td>
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<td>ENGL 5199</td>
<td>Studies in Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5279</td>
<td>Studies in Poetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5299</td>
<td>Studies in Fiction</td>
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<td>ENGL 5319</td>
<td>Studies in Literary Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5849</td>
<td>Independent Study (Graduate Level 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 7019</td>
<td>Advanced British Literature and Culture Before 1800</td>
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<td>ENGL 7119</td>
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<td>ENGL 7149</td>
<td>Advanced Global Literature and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 7489</td>
<td>Advanced Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 5135</td>
<td>Story and Memo</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHN 6841</td>
<td>Advanced Directed Readings in Ethnic Studies</td>
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<td>IAWP 6100</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Doing</td>
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<td>IAWP 6700</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 5431</td>
<td>Dostoevsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS 5861</td>
<td>Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature</td>
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</table>

Graduate Creative Writing Workshops

Choose four: | 12

ENGL 5229 | Poetry Workshop
ENGL 5239 | Fiction Workshop
ENGL 5259 | Nonfiction Workshop
ENGL 5269 | Publishing Workshop
ENGL 5849 | Independent Study (Graduate Level 1)

*Studies in* Courses

Choose two: | 6

ENGL 5199 | Studies in Special Topics
ENGL 5279 | Studies in Poetry
ENGL 5299 | Studies in Fiction
ENGL 5319 | Studies in Literary Movements
ENGL 5529 | Studies in Special Topics 1
ENGL 5549 | Studies in Special Topics 2
ENGL 5559 | Studies in Special Topics 3
ENGL 5849 | Independent Study (Graduate Level 1)

Elective Courses

Choose two: | 6

ENGL 5000 | Introduction to Applied Shakespeare
ENGL 5003 | Introduction to Old English
ENGL 5013 | Intermediate Old English I
ENGL 5019 | Survey of Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory
ENGL 5023 | Intermediate Old English II: Beowulf
ENGL 5029 | British Literature and Culture Before 1800
ENGL 5059 | British Literature and Culture After 1800
ENGL 5109 | Literature and Culture of the United States
ENGL 5139 | Global Literature and Culture
ENGL 5199 | Studies in Special Topics
ENGL 5229 | Poetry Workshop
ENGL 5239 | Fiction Workshop
ENGL 5259 | Nonfiction Workshop
ENGL 5269 | Publishing Workshop
ENGL 5279 | Studies in Poetry
ENGL 5299 | Studies in Fiction
ENGL 5309 | Playwriting
ENGL 5319 | Studies in Literary Movements
ENGL 5529 | Studies in Special Topics 1
ENGL 5549 | Studies in Special Topics 2
ENGL 5589 | Independent Study (Graduate Level 1)
ENGL 7019 | Advanced British Literature and Culture Before 1800
ENGL 7059 | Advanced British Literature and Culture After 1800
ENGL 7119 | Advanced Literature and Culture of the United States
ENGL 7149 | Advanced Global Literature and Culture
ENGL 7179 | Advanced Multicultural/Postcolonial Studies
ENGL 7489 | Advanced Special Topics
ARTF 5010 | Topics in Film Production
CMDP 7300 | Theories of the Avant-Garde
COMM 5435 | Readings in Community and Social Interaction
at the defense.
The student to advise them on manuscript length, suggestions for a draft of the thesis should be made available to the advisor prior to the thesis defense so that problems may be discussed at an early enough date to enable the student to work on them. The advisor will work with a faculty member; and a faculty member in literary studies) during a faculty member in the Creative Writing Department; one other creative student should select a committee of three faculty (the advisor, who is the associate chair for graduate studies. In most cases, this evidence consists of native or near-native command of a language; a written present other evidence of competency in a foreign language to the chair for creative writing. The advisor may be granted for up to one year.

**Thesis**

**General Requirements**

All students must complete a thesis as part of the degree requirements. The thesis should be a book of poetry, short stories, literary/creative nonfiction or a substantial portion of a novel, play or screenplay. It may also be a combination of these genres. The thesis should be at least 70 pages in length, though most students write between 70 and 150 pages. The bulk of work used in a thesis should have been written while the student was enrolled in the creative writing MFA program, and it should be in a form acceptable to the committee. The thesis must include an abstract (1 to 3 pages) that states the writer’s aims and explains how the thesis reflects those aims.

Students take a total of 9 thesis hours in one or more semesters. The student should select a committee of three faculty (the advisor, who is a faculty member in the Creative Writing Department; one other creative writing faculty member; and a faculty member in literary studies) during the semester prior to that in which they will defend the thesis. A rough draft of the thesis should be made available to the advisor prior to the thesis defense so that problems may be discussed at an early enough date to enable the student to work on them. The advisor will work with the student to advise them on manuscript length, suggestions for improvement and general compilation. The advisor and the student will also agree on a reading list about which the student may be questioned at the defense.

A thesis defense must take place before the semester’s deadline for completing defenses (see the Graduate School’s website (https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/academic-resources/graduation-requirements) for a list of semester deadlines). A student must give their completed thesis to their entire committee and file a Master’s Examination Report at least two weeks in advance of the defense. The defense is an oral examination of the thesis that lasts about an hour. All committee members must be present in person or via teleconference. A positive vote from at least two of the committee members is required to pass. A student who fails the defense may not reattempt it for at least three months, and not until any work prescribed by the committee has been completed. The student may retake the examination only once; the second exam covers the same material and includes the same committee members as the first.

**Thesis Submission and Format**

The final draft of the MFA thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School by the applicable deadline and must comply with the Graduate School’s specifications for theses and dissertations as described on the Graduate School’s Master Graduation Information - Thesis Plan (http://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/academic-resources/graduation-requirements/master-graduation-information-thesis-plan) webpage. Students must include all stipulated parts of the thesis (e.g., title page, signature page, abstract, table of contents, bibliography) and are encouraged to ask the Graduate School to check the format of the thesis before they submit the final copy (gradinfo@colorado.edu).

**Candidacy and Diploma Applications for MFA**

Students must submit their Candidacy Application for an Advanced Degree (https://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/sites/default/files/attached-files/candidacyappadv-form2018-re.pdf) by the stipulated deadline, which is generally the third or fourth week of classes in the semester in which the student plans to graduate. The candidacy application confirms that all degree requirements will have been completed by the end of the semester. Return all forms to the graduate program assistant for signatures and submission to the Graduate School.

All students planning to graduate must apply online to graduate. This step must be completed regardless of whether the student plans to attend the commencement ceremony. See the Graduation (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/graduation) section for more information.

**Time Limit**

MFA students have four years from the semester in which they are admitted and begin coursework to complete all degree requirements. To continue past four years, students must file a petition for an extension of the time limit with the dean of the Graduate School. Such petitions must first be submitted for endorsement to the English Department’s associate chair for creative writing. Extensions may be granted for up to one year.