

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.

To apply for a funded graduate assistantship, download and submit the application on the department's program webpage: <https://www.wku.edu/english/mfacw/index.php> (<https://www.wku.edu/english/mfacw/>).

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.
- A curriculum vita or resumé, maximum two-pages.
- **Optional:** Students who are interested in applying for one of our funded graduate assistantships must download and submit the GA application along with the required application materials. The completed GA application must include a one-page statement addressing interests, skills, or experiences that make them highly qualified for a graduate assistantship position of teaching introductory college writing classes. The link to the GA application form is found on the department's program website: <https://www.wku.edu/english/mfacw/index.php> (<https://www.wku.edu/english/mfacw/>).
- Although not required, undergraduate creative writing courses are highly recommended

Graduate Studies Admission

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission/>) of this catalog for Graduate Studies 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
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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	Seminar in Teaching English as a Second Language	
ENG 598	Advanced Directed Study	
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Total Hours		12