Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Not offered in the 2018/19-2019/20 Academic Years

Requirements (72 units)

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Creative Writing is a two-year program offered to writers of considerable promise and commitment in the genres of poetry and fiction writing. A terminal studio arts degree, the M.F.A. assumes that the best education for the artist includes training in literature and extensive practice in the craft of poetry, or the short story and novel. For most college-level teaching positions in Creative Writing, the M.F.A. is the preferred terminal degree. The degree prepares students for career opportunities in editing at publishing firms, newspapers and magazines, professional writing, and working at foundation and arts organizations. The second year of this 72-unit program is heavily concentrated on the final development of a book-length manuscript of publishable quality.

The M.F.A. program has two concentrations: Poetry and Fiction. Students in either concentration must choose the Teaching Focus or the Literature Focus. The Teaching Focus allows students to study instructional approaches in the areas of creative writing and composition for community college and university settings. The Literature Focus allows students to take courses in the study of fiction, poetry, drama and creative nonfiction. Note: Effective Fall 2010, students may not be concurrently enrolled in the M.A. in English Composition and the M.F.A. in Creative Writing.

Admission to the Program

To apply for admission to the M.F.A. Program, applicants must have all of their transcripts and the Postbaccalaureate Graduate Application form forwarded to the Office of Admissions and Student Recruitment. In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to the university, a student must satisfy the following requirements in order to be admitted with classified graduate standing:

1. Admission to the M.F.A. Program is based largely on the quality of the writing sample(s) submitted with the application. Students must choose a concentration in Fiction or Poetry. Applicants must apply via CSUMentor (http://www.csumentor.edu). For additional information go to english.csusb (http://english.csusb.edu). Students who are admitted must begin the program in the following Fall quarter;

2. The applicant must submit the following:
   a. A sample of creative work consisting of ten poems or two short stories or a short story and a novel chapter. The poetry submissions should not exceed twenty pages; the prose submissions should not exceed thirty pages;
   b. An autobiographical statement in which the applicant states his or her literary and academic goals;
   c. Three letters of recommendation which describe the applicant’s maturity as a student writer who can receive and give constructive criticism, and his or her ability to be academically successful in the M.F.A. program.

3. The following undergraduate courses or their equivalents with a minimum grade of “B” in each, taken in conjunction with a major in English or some other major:
   - ENG 311 The English Language 4
   - ENG 385 Literary Theory and Criticism 4
   - One of the following: 4
     - ENG 301A Analysis of Poetry
     - ENG 301B Analysis and Writing of Poetry
     - ENG 302A Analysis of Drama
     - ENG 302B Analysis and Writing of Drama
     - ENG 303A Analysis of Prose Fiction
     - ENG 303B Analysis and Writing of Prose Fiction
     - ENG 304A Analysis of Nonfiction Prose
     - ENG 304B Analysis and Writing of Nonfiction Prose

Two upper-division courses in literature:

4. ENG 317 Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry 4
   or ENG 318 Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction

A student who has not met one or more of the course prerequisites above or the minimum grade requirements may be admitted to the program as a conditionally classified graduate student. Conditionally classified students must fulfill certain conditions before beginning the M.F.A. program with their cohort in the Fall quarter. If conditionally classified students do not meet the conditions, they cannot begin taking the M.F.A. sequence of courses, which start each Fall quarter, and they must reapply to the program;

4. The Graduate Record Examination is not required;

5. The graduate entrance writing requirement if fulfilled by passing, with a “B” (3.0) or better, ENG 306 (or an equivalent course) or the Writing Requirement Equivalency Exam (WREE), within seven years prior to acceptance into the program. Students who do not satisfy this requirement may be conditionally classified and required to take or repeat the course or exam;

6. Applicants who do not possess a bachelor’s degree from a post-secondary institution in a country where English is the principal language of instruction must receive a minimum score of 575 (computer-based score of 233) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Advancement to Candidacy

To be advanced to candidacy, the student must have:

1. Completed at least 36 units of coursework required by the program, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and no grade lower than “B-” in any course in the program; (Students will be permitted to repeat and discount only one course to achieve these results.)

2. Completed at least half of the master’s project, verified by the M.F.A. coordinator;

3. Filed a program plan approved by the M.F.A. coordinator.

Requirements for Graduation

1. Students must have a minimum of 72 quarter units of graduate-level work in the M.F.A. program with a minimum of 60 units completed in residence at this university;

2. Students must gain approval in advance from the M.F.A. Coordinator to count 400- or 500-level courses as electives;

3. Students must be advanced to candidacy;
4. Students must have a grade point of average of at least 3.0 ("B") in the program's coursework;
5. Students meet the graduation writing requirement with the successful completion of the master's project;
6. Students must file a Leave of Absence to preserve their current catalog rights if they are going to be absent from the program one or more quarters;
7. The program must be completed within a seven-year period. No more than seven years may elapse between the time of registration for the earliest course listed on the program and the completion of all requirements for the degree. Students who have taken any required or elective course that expires because it exceeds this seven-year limitation will be required to retake the course or its equivalent as designated by the M.F.A. coordinators, regardless of the grade originally earned. Petitions to waive this requirement will not be approved.

Degree Requirements (72 units)

Fiction Concentration (72 units)

ENG 507 Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry 4
ENG 513 Advanced Creative Writing in Specialized Genres (may be repeated as topics change) 4
ENG 608 M.F.A. Workshop in Fiction (Must be completed in each of the six quarters of the program, for a total of 24)

ENG 621 Approaches to Imaginative Writing 4
ENG 622 Creative Writers on Writing 4
ENG 688 Master's Project Seminar in Fiction (Must be completed Fall and Winter quarters of the second year of the program, for a total of 8)

Students must complete either the following Teaching Focus or the Literature Focus for a total of twenty-four units.

Total Units 72

Courses completed for the B.A. degree may not be counted towards the M.F.A. Students must take additional courses, in consultation with their advisor, toward their M.F.A. degree for a total of 72 units.

Teaching Focus

ENG 612 Contemporary Composition and Discourse Theory 4

Twelve units chosen from:

ENG 510 English in the Secondary Classroom
ENG 511 Creative Writing in the Secondary Classroom
ENG 626 TESL Methods and Materials for Reading and Writing
ENG 630 Writing Center Studies
ENG 657 Sites of Praxis
ENG 658 Computers and Writing: Literacy and Technology
ENG 660 Issues in Teaching College Composition
ENG 670 Creative Writing Internship

Electives. Electives must be approved in advance by the M.F.A. coordinators. Four units of electives can be outside of the English Department.

Total Units 24

Literature Focus

ENG 600 Critical Approaches to Literature 4

Twelve units chosen from:

ENG 515 Senior Seminar in Literature
ENG 601 Seminar in Poetry
ENG 602 Seminar in Dramatic Literature for Stage and Film
ENG 603 Seminar in Fiction
ENG 604 Seminar in Nonfiction Prose
ENG 651 Seminar in a Literary Topic
ENG 670 Creative Writing Internship

Electives. Four units of electives can be outside of the English Department. Electives must be approved in advance by the M.F.A. coordinators.

Total Units 24

Poetry Concentration (72 units)

ENG 508 Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction 4
ENG 513 Advanced Creative Writing in Specialized Genres (may be repeated as topics change) 4
ENG 607 M.F.A. Workshop in Poetry (Must be completed in each of the six quarters of the program, for a total of 24)

ENG 621 Approaches to Imaginative Writing 4
ENG 622 Creative Writers on Writing 4
ENG 687 Master's Project Seminar in Poetry (Must be completed Fall and Winter quarters of the second year of the program, for a total of 8)

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## Literature Focus

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<td>ENG 515</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in Literature</td>
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<td>ENG 543A</td>
<td>Literary Publication: Solicitation of Submissions</td>
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<td>ENG 543B</td>
<td>Literary Publication: Production</td>
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<td>ENG 543C</td>
<td>Literary Publication: Publication Process</td>
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<td>ENG 601</td>
<td>Seminar in Poetry</td>
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