

CREATIVE WRITING, MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

Gregory Spatz, Program Director
400 Catalyst
509.828.1310

The Master of Fine Arts Program (<https://www.ewu.edu/cahss/english-philosophy/creative-writing/mfa/>) is an intensive, two-year, pre-professional course of study with an emphasis on the practice of literature as a fine art. The program includes coursework in the study of literature from the vantage point of its composition and history, but the student's principal work is done in advanced workshops and in the writing of a book-length thesis of publishable quality in fiction or poetry. The MFA is a terminal degree program.

Required Courses 20

CRWR 517	GRADUATE WRITING WORKSHOP: FICTION, POETRY, LITERARY NONFICTION, DRAMA, SCRIPTWRITING OR TRANSLATION (Note: this course may be repeated for credit; students are encouraged to take one workshop from outside the major.)
----------	---

Literary Form and Theory Courses

Choose one Literature course from outside the major area 5

Choose one series—in student's major area of study 15

Fiction

CRWR 583 FICTION I-THE NOVEL

CRWR 584 FICTION II-THE SHORT FORM

CRWR 585 SELECTED TOPICS IN CRAFT

Poetry

CRWR 589 POETRY I-BACKGROUND AND THEORY

CRWR 590 POETRY II-THE MODERNS AND MODERNISM

CRWR 592 POETRY III-CONTEMPORARY WORLD POETRY AND POETICS

Electives in creative writing, literature and/or a secondary emphasis 20-25

Note: Elective credits are typically taken in the following classes but may include additional CRWR 517 workshop and form and theory classes as well as repeat sections of CRWR 539 or CRWR 596, or any class above the 400-level offered at the university, with approval.

CRWR 514 LITERARY EDITING AND DESIGN

CRWR 515 PRACTICUM: WILLOW SPRINGS MAGAZINE, LITERARY EDITING AND DESIGN

CRWR 516 PRACTICUM: WILLOW SPRINGS BOOKS, LITERARY EDITING AND DESIGN

CRWR 539 SPECIAL TOPICS

CRWR 569 LITERATURE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

CRWR 596 EXPERIMENTAL COURSE

CRWR 698 PRACTICUM IN INSTRUCTION: WRITERS IN THE COMMUNITY

ENGL 511 COMPOSITION PEDAGOGIES: THEORIES AND PRACTICES

ENGL 694 PRACTICUM: TEACHING FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION

Thesis—minimum is 10 credits for graduation 10-15

CRWR 600 THESIS

Minimum Credits Required For Graduation

72

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents with the application form: a writing sample consisting of 10–20 pages of poetry and/or 15–25 pages of prose, an 800-word letter stating the applicant's reasons for pursuing the MFA, and two letters of reference.

Applicants for teaching assistantships must write an additional letter in which they describe their interest in and prior experience with teaching. Applications for Teaching assistantships must be submitted by mid-February. Teaching assistantships are awarded in April for the following year. No applicant can be considered for a teaching assistantship until all documentation (completed application, writing sample, letters of recommendation, and other written materials) has been received.

Completion Requirements

- Students should spend six quarters in residence.
- A student should concentrate in one of the following areas: Poetry, Fiction, Literary Nonfiction. Students, however, are expected to take coursework in areas other than the one in which they concentrate.
- In consultation with a thesis advisor, each student will compile a list of fifteen books to augment the reading done in coursework. A portion of the oral examination, held near the end of each student's term of study, will be devoted to questions about this list and works covered in required form and theory literature courses.
- Each student must submit a literary thesis of substantial length and publishable quality. The thesis will be reviewed in the oral examination.

Students who earn an MFA in Creative Writing should be able to do the following, at a level of proficiency sufficient for entry into the profession:

- analyze works of literature using the technical language of the craft pertinent to their chosen genre of study (literary fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry);
- demonstrate an understanding of the contemporary literary landscape;
- produce texts that conform to the conventions specific to the genre being studied (literary fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry);
- provide constructive criticism of written works in progress;
- synthesize an understanding of the publishing process.