Master of Fine Arts

Creative Writing with a Concentration in Fiction (MFA)

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The Master of Fine Arts in creative writing is widely regarded as a terminal degree. It is designed to prepare students for careers as published writers in fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction. A secondary goal is to emphasize not only preparation for college-level teaching (the practical vocational goal of most M.F.A. programs in creative writing), but also includes preparation of graduates for careers in literary editing and publishing, or as free-lance writers (magazines, newspapers, reviews, and features).

Admission

Applicants must have completed a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution with at least a 3.0 G.P.A. Candidates must also submit writing samples in their genre (candidates should note genre on title page of submission), three letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and a personal statement.

Curriculum Requirements

Students in the M.F.A. program must complete 54 total credit hours (39 hours of required courses and 15 hours of approved electives). In addition, students must also maintain a 3.00 GPA overall, satisfy a mid-program requirements in the program's Visiting Writer in Residence. Three (3) of these 1-credit ENGL 596 Writing Tutorial courses are equivalent to one Elective (3 credits) in the MFA Creative Writing curriculum.

Students in their first year of the program, especially those with GTAs/GAAs/RAAs, are strongly encouraged to take as one of their Electives, ENGL 664 The Teaching of College Composition; this course is typically a requirement for any teaching assistantship assignments in the classroom.

Additional Requirements

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Thesis

All candidates for the M.F.A. in creative writing must complete a thesis manuscript of publishable quality in their chosen genre (poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction). Each student will select an advisor from the graduate faculty and work with that advisor and a committee of readers to prepare the manuscript. At the completion of the thesis, students will schedule an oral defense with the advisor and the committee, at which point the thesis will be adjudged as to its readiness for final acceptance.
For more information relating to this program and its requirements, please visit https://www.odu.edu/englishdept/mfa-creative-writing (https://www.odu.edu/englishdept/mfa-creative-writing/)