

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The Master of Fine Arts program at Wichita State University is the twelfth oldest in the nation and one that has earned widespread respect by producing graduates who are not only well-trained writers, but also well-prepared teachers of writing and literature.

The MFA degree in creative writing places emphasis on the development of skills and understanding in the practice of imaginative writing and upon related academic study. It is not exclusively a studio program; rather, it encourages the development of writers who are able, as the result of additional course work in English, to demonstrate skills useful in teaching, editing, and other related areas. A core of workshops and tutorials leads to a final writing project: a collection of fiction or poetry, a novel, or some other appropriate work. Flexibility is provided in academic course work to allow for a variety of possible interests.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet the general requirements of the Graduate School, with the additional requirement of a 3.000 grade point average in their previous course work in English. The director of creative writing evaluates the applicant's transcript, prescribing additional undergraduate hours for those who have fewer than 24 credit hours of acceptable course work in English. Courses in freshman composition, grammar, teaching methods, journalism, speech, etc. may not be included in the required 24 hours. Exceptions may be made for outstanding students who have majored in related fields. With the permission of the director of creative writing, gifted writers may study in the program as special

students with no specific degree intentions. Deadline for application: October 1 for spring, February 10 for fall admission.

Applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees more than 10 years before their application for admission must be interviewed by the director of creative writing before they are admitted into the program.

Applicants who have earned their degrees in countries where English is not the native language must score at least 600 on the TOEFL Examination or a minimum overall band score of 7.5 on the IELTS Examination before they may be admitted to the program.

Degree Program Status. Applicants who seek to be admitted with full standing in the degree program must submit a sample of original writing in literary fiction (approximately 20 pages), or poetry (about six poems), to the director of creative writing at the time they seek admission.

Degree Requirements

Coursework: The 48 credit hours of coursework are apportioned into two categories: required and elective courses. Details on the requirements for the program can be found both in the graduate catalog and on the department website.

All MFA students are required to take ENGL 700, Introduction to Graduate Study in English. Teaching assistants must take ENGL 681, Editing American English, and ENGL 780, Advanced Theory and Practice in Composition, unless specifically exempted.

Counseling. All MFA candidates in English are advised by the director of creative writing, who will help the student establish a Plan of Study which will take into account the student's interests and future vocational plans.

Transfer of Credit. A minimum of 24 hours of the total 48 semester hours required for the degree must be taken at Wichita State. No more than 24 hours of credit may be counted toward the degree from other graduate work taken at Wichita State or at another school. If the credit to be transferred comes from a program in which the student took a graduate degree, the time limits imposed by the Graduate School on transfer of credit will not apply.

Financial Aid

The majority of students hold teaching assistantships for all or part of their residency. Graduate teaching assistants teach two sections of English composition per semester. One MFA graduate student may be selected on the basis of merit to teach a section of Introduction to Creative Writing.

Students awarded a graduate assistantship receive a stipend and, for non-Kansas residents, a waiver of non-resident tuition rates. Students awarded a graduate teaching assistantship may also qualify for up to 100 percent waiver of their tuition.

The Department of English also offers a University Creative Writing Fellowship to two outstanding MFA students each year. In addition, the department awards one MFA student who is early in the program the Stephen C. Barr Endowed Fellowship.

Tutorials

Each semester, graduate students may enroll for a special one-month tutorial with a visiting poet or fiction writer. The student and the visiting writer work intensively on one-to-one basis in a series of conferences designed to augment workshop sessions. Enrollment is limited to ensure concentrated, individual attention.

Faculty

Margaret Dawe, MFA, City University of New York, Brooklyn College, 1989. Fiction
Albert Goldbarth, MFA, University of Iowa, 1971. Poetry
W. Stephen Hathaway, MFA, Bowling Green State University, 1973. Fiction
Richard Spilman, PhD, State University of New York-Binghamton, 1982. Fiction and poetry
Sam Taylor, MFA, University of Virginia, 2010. Poetry

For More Information

Director of Creative Writing
Creative Writing Program
Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0014
Phone (316) 978-3130

Web site: www.wichita.edu/cw

Apply On-Line

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=apply&p=/OnlineApplicationGateway>