

CREATIVE WRITING (CRWR)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The MFA in Creative Writing provides a professional course of study for graduate students seeking to perfect their ability to compose poems, stories, and novels. While primarily affording students intensive studio or practical work within their chosen genre, the MFA in Creative Writing requires that students incorporate such work with a traditional study of literature. The goal of the MFA in Creative Writing is to provide an atmosphere in which students can both hone their skills as writers and gain a theoretical and historical understanding of their craft.

The Department of English also offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in English Language and Literature (<http://pdc-webapp-lamp27.umd.edu/Catalog/public-programs-detail.php?ENGL>). Please visit the English Language and Literature (<http://pdc-webapp-lamp27.umd.edu/Catalog/public-programs-detail.php?ENGL>) listing for more information.

Financial Assistance

Each year, the program accepts 4-8 applicants (split among fiction and poetry), who are fully funded for two years by Teaching Assistantships, and possibly fellowship support. Our aid packages are typically 2-year agreements with options for a third extended thesis year. As Teaching Assistants, our MFA students do no teaching during their first year, and teach the equivalent of one class each semester in their second year, with teaching options for the third year if courses are available. (Note that the program can be completed in 2 or 3 years.) Although a great deal of this teaching is Academic Writing (English 101), we make every effort to prioritize that our MFA students have at least one chance to teach an undergraduate creative writing workshop or to serve as a teaching assistant in an undergraduate literature course.

Contact

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Website: <http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/creativewriting> (<http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/creativewriting/>)

Courses: ENGL (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/engl/>)

Relationships: English Language and Literature (ENGL) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/english-language-literature-engl/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume (optional but strongly recommended)
- Writing Sample

In addition to fulfilling Graduate School requirements, applicants to the M.F.A. degree program should present a 3.0 GPA. Admission is for the Fall semester only. All application materials must be submitted electronically.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 9, 2025
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	December 9, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/creativewriting> (<http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/creativewriting/>)

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/creative-writing-crw/creative-writing-mfa/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

Resources for research in the College Park and Washington, D.C. area are unsurpassed. The university's libraries hold over 2,000,000 volumes. In addition to the outstanding holdings of the Library of Congress, the area also offers the specialized resources of the Folger Shakespeare Library, Dumbarton Oaks, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Center for the Study of the Visual Arts. The university

recently partnered with the Phillips Collection to create the University of Maryland Center for Art and Knowledge, a dynamic collaboration that includes new curriculum, experimental and community-focused education programs, a new Phillips Collection gallery and an open storage facility in College Park.

UMCP is a member of the Consortium of Institutions in the Washington area, which permits graduate students at College Park to enroll in courses at other universities for graduate credit at UMCP. Graduate students in English also may take courses for graduate credit at the Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies, which runs a series of seminars by distinguished scholars each year.