English (nonfiction writing), M.F.A.

The Master of Fine Arts in English with a subprogram in nonfiction writing, known as the Nonfiction Writing Program, is one of the few programs in the nation that offers a full range of graduate courses in nonfiction.

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts program English with a subprogram in nonfiction writing requires 48 s.h. of graduate credit. It is designed for accomplished students and writers of literary nonfiction; most complete it in three years. The program culminates in a thesis of at least 75 pages.

M.F.A. students must complete 32 s.h. in residence at the University of Iowa, in courses specified by the program. They may choose electives widely, from courses offered by the English department and by all other University of Iowa departments.

Department of English graduate courses are repeatable with the written approval of the department’s director of graduate studies.

In addition to completing course work, students are required to enroll for at least 2 s.h. and no more than 8 s.h. of thesis credit. The thesis may be a single extended piece of nonfiction, a collection of shorter nonfiction pieces, or a collection of essays. Whatever the project, the thesis is expected to be of publishable quality.

For more information, consult the director of the Nonfiction Writing Program.

Admission

Applications and all supporting documents for graduate admission must be submitted electronically by January 1. Applicants should submit their applications and supporting materials to the University of Iowa Office of Admissions website.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

Financial Support

Graduate scholarships, fellowships, and teaching and research assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. The department strives to provide three years of support for students who maintain good standing, which requires a University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.00, full-time enrollment, and satisfactory progress through the program.

Financial aid applications are considered only from students who have applied or been admitted to a degree program in the Graduate College. Applications and all necessary supporting material must be submitted by the end of January for the following academic year. Forms are available from the Department of English and the University’s Office of Admissions.

Career Advancement

An Our Alum page on the Department of English website provides information about Nonfiction Writing Program graduates.