

English, MFA

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts degree in English (creative writing) requires 48 s.h. of graduate credit taken over four semesters in residence at the University of Iowa. Students specialize in fiction or poetry.

The program is flexible and individualized. Up to 18 s.h. of graduate transfer credit may be counted toward the degree; however, students must satisfy the residence requirement.

In addition to taking Creative Writing Program courses, many MFA students can choose courses offered by other University of Iowa departments and programs, such as the interdisciplinary Center for the Book (Graduate College), and the departments of Theatre Arts and English (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences).

Students must enroll in CW:7870 Fiction Workshop or CW:7875 Poetry Workshop during each semester of residence in the program. In each course, groups of 10–15 students read and critique each other's work.

The program's seminars provide students with a thorough knowledge of their chosen literary form and related aspects of craft. Seminars include CW:7810 Form of Fiction, CW:7820 Form of Poetry, CW:7830 Seminar: Problems in Modern Fiction, and CW:7840 Seminar: Problems in Modern Poetry. Each focuses on a single aspect of modern poetry or fiction, such as a single writer's work or a body of work with a common theme or purpose.

During the second year of the program, each student must take the MFA examination, an essay exam that may be written outside of the classroom. Students enroll in CW:7895 MFA Thesis and submit their graduate thesis during the last semester; the thesis is a fiction or poetry manuscript of substantial length.