Literary Translation, MFA

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts program in literary translation requires 48 s.h. of graduate credit, including a thesis. Students must maintain a UI cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.75. They typically complete the program and graduate in two to three years.

Translators in the program focus on creating works that can convey the distinctness of the original languages and the immediacy of contemporary languages, whether poetry, fiction, or drama. Students consider ideas of literariness, style, cultural politics, and authority, and how these come into play in the relationships between authors and their texts, authors and translators, translations and readers, and in the media landscapes in which these circulate.

At the core of the MFA program are the workshops, TRNS:6555 Translator-in-Residence Workshop and TRNS:7460 Translation Workshop, which every student must take for a minimum of 12 s.h. of credit. Depth in the literature and culture of the source language, creative writing (translation is considered a writing art), translation theory and history, and contemporary literary theory are basic curricular requirements, supplemented with elective courses in which students may develop an area of special interest in consultation with their advisors.

During the first year, each student has an advisory committee of two faculty members: one from the translation program, who is the student's primary advisor; and one from the departments of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures or Spanish and Portuguese or from one of the MFA writing programs. A third member joins the committee during the second year when a student submits the thesis proposal. At least one member of the committee should be competent in the student's source language.

The MFA in literary translation requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	24
Electives	24
Thesis	

Core Courses

Students must take TRNS:6000, TRNS:6399, and TRNS:6459 on an A–F graded basis.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these (9 s.h.):		
TRNS:6000	The Craft and Contexts of Translation	3
TRNS:6399	Writing About Translation	3
TRNS:6459	Issues in Translation	3
Translation Workshops		
12 s.h. from these:		
TRNS:6555	Translator-in-Residence Workshop (may be repeated)	3
TRNS:7460	Translation Workshop (may be repeated)	3
This course:		
TRNS:6444	Thesis Workshop	3

Electives

Students select 24 s.h. of electives in consultation with their advisors, with up to 6 s.h. of credit from the pedagogy courses in the following list. They are strongly encouraged to enroll in a minimum of 12 s.h. in translation courses (prefix TRNS). A maximum of 3 s.h. from TRNS:6400 Thesis may count as elective credit. With permission of a student's advisor, additional electives not listed here may be selected.

Pedagogy Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
A maximum of 6 s.h. from these:		
CNW:5375	Teaching in a Writing Center	3
CNW:6600	Teaching Nonfiction	3

Elective Courses

Elective options may include the following.

Course #	Title	Hours
Translation courses (prefix TRNS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
TRNS:3179	Undergraduate Translation Workshop	3
TRNS:3491	Translation Internship	1-3
TRNS:6000	The Craft and Contexts of Translation	1,3
TRNS:6050	Independent Study	arr.
TRNS:6399	Writing About Translation	3
TRNS:6444	Thesis Workshop	3
TRNS:6459	Issues in Translation	3
Asian Languages and Literatures courses (prefix ASIA) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
ASIA:4301	Honors Tutorial	arr.
ASIA:4506	Senior Honors Thesis	arr.
ASIA:6501	MA Thesis	arr.
Arabic Studies courses (prefix ARAB) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
ARAB:3011	Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I	3
ARAB:3012	Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II	3
ARAB:3030	Media Arabic	3
ARAB:3050	Arab Culture Through Dialects	3
American Sign Language courses (prefix ASL) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
ASL:3001	American Sign Language V	3
ASL:3100	American Sign Language Conversation	3
Chinese courses (prefix CHIN) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
CHIN:3101	Third-Year Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:3102	Third Year Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:3103	Business Chinese I	3

CHIN:3104	Business Chinese II	3
CHIN:4101	Classical Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:4102	Classical Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:4103	Fourth-Year Chinese: First Semester	3
CHIN:4104	Fourth-Year Chinese: Second Semester	3
CHIN:4150	Advanced Reading and Writing in Chinese	3
CHIN:5106	Individual Chinese for Advanced Students	arr.
Creative Nonfiction Writing courses (prefix CNW), excluding:		
CNW:4690	Undergraduate Project in Nonfiction Writing	arr.
CNW:7900	Special Project in Nonfiction Writing	arr.
CNW:7950	Thesis in Nonfiction Writing	arr.
Creative Writing courses (prefix CW) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
CW:4870	Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Fiction	arr.
CW:4875	Undergraduate Writers' Workshop: Poetry	arr.
CW:4885	Undergraduate Writers' Seminar	arr.
CW:4894	Undergraduate Project in Creative Writing	arr.
CW:7890	Graduate Project in Creative Writing	arr.
CW:7895	MFA Thesis	arr.
Comparative Literature courses (prefix CL) numbered 3000 and above		
English courses (prefix ENGL) numbered 300 and above, excluding:		
French courses (prefix FREN) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
FREN:3000	Third-Year French	3
FREN:3020	Oral Expression in French I	3
FREN:3060	Introduction to Reading and Writing in Literature	3
FREN:3240	Media French	3
FREN:3410	Business French	3
FREN:4020	Oral Expression in French II	3
FREN:4911	French for Reading/Research	2
FREN:4912	French for Reading/Research	2
FREN:4995	Honors Research and Thesis	3
German courses (prefix GRMN) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
GRMN:3103	Composition and Conversation I	3
GRMN:3104	Composition and Conversation II	3
GRMN:3195	German Linguistics Lab I	3
GRMN:3214	Business German	3
GRMN:3845	The Structure of German	3
GRMN:3855	The Sounds of German	3
GRMN:4195	German Linguistics Lab II	3
GRMN:4910	Peer Tutoring in German	arr.
GRMN:4990	Honors Research	3
GRMN:4995	German Graduation Portfolio	0
GRMN:5000	German Reading for Graduate Students	3
International Studies courses (IS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
IS:3020	Writing Projects in International Studies	0-3
IS:3990	Independent Study in International Studies	arr.
IS:4990	International Studies Senior Project	3
IS:4991	Honors Thesis in International Studies	3
International Writing Program courses (prefix IWP) numbered 3000 and above		
Italian courses (prefix ITAL) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
ITAL:3305	Advanced Italian	3-4
ITAL:3306	Advanced Italian II	3-4
ITAL:4500	Undergraduate Capstone Project	1-3
ITAL:4998	Honors Research and Thesis	3
Japanese courses (prefix JPNS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
JPNS:3001	Third-Year Japanese I	4
JPNS:3002	Third-Year Japanese II	4
JPNS:3107	Classical Japanese: First Semester	3
JPNS:3128	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	3
JPNS:3500	Japanese for Professional Purposes	3
JPNS:4001	Fourth-Year Japanese I	3
JPNS:4002	Fourth-Year Japanese II	3
Korean Studies courses (KORE) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
KORE:3101	Third-Year Korean: First Semester	3
KORE:3102	Third-Year Korean: Second Semester	3
KORE:4000	Fourth Year Korean: First Semester	3
KORE:4001	Fourth Year Korean: Second Semester	3
Latin courses (prefix CLSL) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
CLSL:4080	Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship	2-3
CLSL:4090	Private Assignments	1-3
CLSL:4095	Honors Readings	3
CLSL:7080	Latin Thesis	arr.
CLSL:7090	Advanced Reading	arr.
Latin American Studies courses (prefix LAS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
LAS:4990	Independent Project in Latin American Studies	arr.
Linguistics courses (prefix LING) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		

LING:4010	Undergraduate Practicum in Teaching English as a Second Language	3
LING:4900	Honors: Research and Thesis	arr.
LING:6900	Master's Thesis	arr.
LING:7900	PhD Thesis	arr.
Portuguese courses (prefix PORT) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
PORT:3050	Intensive Portuguese for Spanish Speakers	4
PORT:3100	Writing and Speaking	3
PORT:4995	Portuguese Senior Project	3
Religious Studies courses (prefix RELS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
RELS:4001	Biblical Hebrew I	3-4
RELS:4002	Biblical Hebrew II	3
RELS:4893	Classical Arabic: Vocabulary, Syntax, and Grammar	1-3
RELS:4950	Senior Majors Seminar	3
RELS:4960	Individual Study: Undergraduates	arr.
RELS:4970	Honors Tutorial	2-3
RELS:4975	Honors Essay	2-4
RELS:5001	Biblical Aramaic	3
RELS:5002	Targumic Aramaic	3
RELS:6125	Classical Arabic and Grammar	3-6
RELS:7950	Thesis	arr.
Russian courses (prefix RUSS) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
RUSS:3111	Third-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:3112	Third-Year Russian II	4
RUSS:3113	Russian Composition and Conversation	4
RUSS:4111	Fourth-Year Russian I	4
RUSS:4112	Fourth-Year Russian II	4
RUSS:4995	Honors	arr.
Second Language Acquisition courses (prefix SLA) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
SLA:7030	PhD Thesis	arr.
Spanish courses (prefix SPAN) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
SPAN:3010	Advanced Spanish Speaking and Writing	3
SPAN:3015	Fast Fixes: Improved Spanish in Six Weeks	1
SPAN:3020	Journalistic Writing in Spanish	3
SPAN:3080	Spanish for International Business	3
SPAN:3090	Spanish at Work	1
SPAN:3095	Spanish Composition and Grammar	3
SPAN:3100	Structures of Spanish: Words and Sentences	3
SPAN:3110	Spanish Sound Structure	3
SPAN:4195	Spanish Linguistics Lab II	3
SPAN:4998	Honors: Research and Thesis	2-3
SPAN:5002	Pedagogical Practicum	2
SPAN:6299	Thesis: Creative Writing	arr.

Swahili courses (prefix SWAH) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
SWAH:3006	Conversational Swahili	3
SWAH:3007	Advanced Swahili	3
World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures courses (prefix WLLC) numbered 3000 and above, excluding:		
WLLC:3000	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Lower-Level Language	0-5
WLLC:3001	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Elementary I	1-6
WLLC:3002	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Elementary II	1-6
WLLC:3003	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Intermediate I	1-6
WLLC:3004	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Intermediate II	1-6
WLLC:3005	Big Ten Academic Alliance CourseShare: Upper-Level Language	1-6

Thesis

Students complete a thesis, which is a translated collection of poems, literary essays, short stories, a short novel, or a drama with an introduction that sets the work in appropriate context. A maximum of 3 s.h. of TRNS:6400 Thesis may count as elective credit.

The introduction should include a critical discussion of issues and problems related to the translation; it should present a rationale for the translator's approach and strategies, based on interpretation, analysis of the leading features, structure, style, or authorial objectives of the source text. The source text should be a work that has not been translated previously or, at the discretion of the advisory committee, a work whose previous translation is judged to be outdated or inadequate in some respect. An oral defense of the thesis examines the student's translation and the introductory essay in detail.