

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING, EDITING, AND PUBLISHING

Program Description

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing is designed

- to assist students in their development as writers of fiction, poetry, and/or creative nonfiction;
- to provide practical, hands-on experience in the field of editing and publishing;
- to deepen a student's critical engagement with language and literature, and
- to prepare those students for careers as published authors, as well as teachers of creative writing in community colleges and universities.

Admissions

Students seeking admission to the MFA program in English must supply the following materials directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Graduate Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcripts of all college-level work, including one that shows conferral of the undergraduate degree (Note: The student must have completed at least twelve hours of upper-division English courses with a 3.0 GPA or better; students with credentials from foreign universities must have their transcripts reviewed by a transcript evaluation service.)
4. Official scores for the GRE General Test (Note: The subject test in English is not required.)
5. Three letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's potential for success in an English graduate program
6. A creative writing sample of either 20 pages of prose or a collection of 8 - 10 poems. (**Note:** Applicants may submit a critical writing sample to supplement but not substitute for a creative work.)
7. **International applicants ONLY:** Official TOEFL scores

The English MFA Program welcomes qualified international applicants; however, an individual who does not hold American citizenship must be accepted in regular admission status, without qualifications.

A holistic review of each applicant's file will be completed, and admission will be granted on a competitive basis.

Degree Requirements

To earn the MFA in English, students must complete a minimum of forty-eight hours of graduate credit with a focus in either Fiction or Poetry, as indicated below.

- All MFA students must take at least one course from each of five blocks; included among the total classes must be at least one course each in British and American literature.
- All MFA students are required to take ENGL 5330 at the first opportunity.
- Before beginning work on a thesis, sitting for comprehensive examinations, undertaking a directed study, taking an undergraduate course for graduate credit, or transferring in graduate credits from another institution, the student must have completed at least twelve hours of graduate English coursework, including ENGL 5330, in good standing.
- All MFA students complete a two-semester thesis sequence (ENGL 6098 and ENGL 6099).
- All MFA students must pass the English graduate program's written comprehensive examination (offered in October, February, and June of each year) and an oral defense of the thesis. Students must be enrolled in the University for the terms in which they sit for the written comprehensive and oral examinations.
- A student may take ENGL 5339 twice, with approval of the Department Chair. A student may take one 4000-level English course for graduate credit, with approval of the Department Chair and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. See the *Graduate English Handbook* for guidelines and restrictions.

English Course Blocks

- Block 1: English Language, Early and Middle English Literature
- Block 2: Theory, Pedagogy, and Writing Disciplines
- Block 3: Early Literature
- Block 4: 19th-Century British and American Literature
- Block 5: 20th- and 21st-Century Literature in English

The MFA student must take at least one course in each of these blocks. The student need not take the block courses in sequence.

With the approval of the Department Chair, a student may substitute up to six hours of the following special and variable topics courses for block requirements:

Courses

ENGL 5369	The Novel	3
ENGL 5370	Multicultural Literature	3
ENGL 5374	Women's Literature	3
ENGL 5388	Major Figures in Amer Poetry	3
ENGL 5391	Major Figures in Brit Poetry	3
ENGL 6330	Special Topics in English	3

The block requirement for which such a course may be substituted will be announced explicitly in the online course listings before registration and in the instructor's syllabus.

Degree Plans

Students enrolled in the MFA in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing may choose a focus in either Fiction or Poetry.

Plan 1 – Focus in Fiction

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing Focus in Fiction

Specified Courses

ENGL 5330	Graduate Research: Methods and Theories	3
ENGL 5331	Creative Writing: Fiction (Students will take 12 hours of workshop)	3
ENGL 5333	Practicum:Editing & Publishing (Students take 6 hours of practicum) *	3
ENGL 5336	Narrative Theory	3
or ENGL 5337	Poetic Theory and Prosody	
ENGL 5368	Literary Criticism And Theory	3

Block 1

Select one of the following: 3

ENGL 5377	Early & Middle English Lit	
ENGL 5383	English Linguistics	
ENGL 5389	Hist Dvlpt Of English Language	

Block 2

Select one of the following: 3

ENGL 5335	Workshop In Teaching Writing	
ENGL 5367	Practicm In Teaching Coll Comp	
ENGL 5384	Rhetoric & Composition Theory	
ENGL 5390	Technical & Prof. Writing	

Block 3

Select one of the following: 3

ENGL 5372	Early American Literature	
ENGL 5375	Restoration-18Th Cent Brit Lit	
ENGL 5376	The Classical Tradition	
ENGL 5378	Renaissance-17th Cent Brit Lit	

Block 4

Select one of the following: 3

ENGL 5379	Romantic Literature	
ENGL 5380	Victorian Literature	
ENGL 5385	American Literature, 1800-1860	
ENGL 5386	American Literature, 1860-1920	

Block 5

Select one of the following: 3

ENGL 5371	Modern World Literature	
ENGL 5381	Eng Lit, 1900 to the Present	
ENGL 5387	American Lit, 1920-the Present	

Thesis		
ENGL 6098	Thesis I	3
ENGL 6099	Thesis II	3
Total Hours		48

Plan 2 – Focus in Poetry

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing Focus in Poetry

Specified Courses		
ENGL 5330	Graduate Research: Methods and Theories	3
ENGL 5331	Creative Writing: Fiction	3
or ENGL 5334	Creative Writing: Nonfiction	
ENGL 5332	Creative Writing: Poetry (Students take 9 hours of workshop)	3
ENGL 5333	Practicum:Editing & Publishing (Students take 6 hours of practicum) *	3
ENGL 5336	Narrative Theory	3
or ENGL 5337	Poetic Theory and Prosody	
ENGL 5368	Literary Criticism And Theory	3

Block 1

Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 5377	Early & Middle English Lit	
ENGL 5383	English Linguistics	
ENGL 5389	Hist Dvlpt Of English Language	

Block 2

Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 5335	Workshop In Teaching Writing	
ENGL 5367	Practicm In Teaching Coll Comp	
ENGL 5384	Rhetoric & Composition Theory	
ENGL 5390	Technical & Prof. Writing	

Block 3

Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 5372	Early American Literature	
ENGL 5375	Restoration-18Th Cent Brit Lit	
ENGL 5376	The Classical Tradition	
ENGL 5378	Renaissance-17th Cent Brit Lit	

Block 4

Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 5379	Romantic Literature	
ENGL 5380	Victorian Literature	
ENGL 5385	American Literature, 1800-1860	
ENGL 5386	American Literature, 1860-1920	

Block 5

Select one of the following:		3
ENGL 5371	Modern World Literature	
ENGL 5381	Eng Lit, 1900 to the Present	
ENGL 5387	American Lit, 1920-the Present	

Thesis		
ENGL 6098	Thesis I	3
ENGL 6099	Thesis II	3
Total Hours		48

* Teaching Assistants may substitute ENGL 5367 for three hours of ENGL 5333 Practicum: Editing & Publishing.