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

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing 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 students for careers as published authors, as well as teachers of creative writing in community colleges and universities, secondary schools, prisons, libraries, and community centers of various types.

Students seeking admission to the MFA in Creative Writing, Editing, and Publishing must supply the following materials directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions: ([https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html](https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/transition.html))

1. Graduate Application ([http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html](http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html)): The Graduate Application is an institutional application required by SHSU. Students must provide biographical and educational information and information relevant to determining State of Texas residency.
2. Application fee ([http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html](http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html)): An application fee is required for all applications to graduate programs at SHSU.
3. A statement of purpose, of 500 to 1000 words, articulating the applicant's intentions for pursuing an MFA from our program.
4. Transcripts documenting all prior degrees.* (Note: Students with credentials from foreign universities must have their transcripts reviewed by a transcript evaluation service.)
5. Official scores for the GRE General Test (Note: The subject test in English is not required.)
6. Three letters of recommendation that discuss the applicant's potential for success in a creative writing graduate program.
7. A creative writing sample of either 20 pages of prose or a collection of 8 - 10 poems.
8. International applicants ONLY: Official TOEFL scores

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admissions committee. However, under university policy, admission decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

The 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.

**Note:** Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

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

- All MFA students are required to take ENGL 5340 at the first opportunity.
- Before beginning work on a thesis or undertaking a directed study, the student must have completed at least twelve hours of graduate English coursework at Sam Houston State University, including ENGL 5340 in good standing.
- All MFA students complete a two-semester thesis sequence (ENGL 6096 and ENGL 6097).
- All MFA students must pass the MFA program's portfolio requirement. Students must be enrolled in the University for the terms in which they complete and defend the portfolio.
- A student may take ENGL 5312 twice, with approval of the Department Chair.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5340</td>
<td>The Writer's Life</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5331</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 5334</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Nonfiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5333</td>
<td>Practicum: Editing &amp; Publishing (Students take 6 hours of practicum)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5332</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Poetry</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5336</td>
<td>Narrative Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 5337</td>
<td>Poetic Theory and Prosody</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5331, 5332, 5334</td>
<td>(Students take 9 additional hours from these three courses)</td>
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Literature, Language, & Pedagogy Courses (Students must take 15 hours from among the following):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5301</td>
<td>Grad Rsrch: Methods &amp; Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5302</td>
<td>Literary Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5306</td>
<td>American Lit: Pre-Civil War</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5307</td>
<td>American Lit: Post-Civil War</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5308</td>
<td>US Ethnic Literatures</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5309</td>
<td>British Lit: Pre-Industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5310</td>
<td>British Lit: Post-Industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 5311</td>
<td>Anglophone Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 5312</td>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 6301</td>
<td>Literary Theory Seminar</td>
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<td>ENGL 6302</td>
<td>Seminar in Major Author</td>
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<td>ENGL 6303</td>
<td>English Linguistics Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 6304</td>
<td>Literary Movements Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 6305</td>
<td>Literary Genre Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 6306</td>
<td>Global Ethnic Literatures</td>
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**Thesis**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 6096</td>
<td>MFA Thesis I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 6097</td>
<td>MFA Thesis II</td>
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**Total Hours** 48