Creative Writing, MFA

ASU's creative writing program is distinguished by an outstanding faculty that has garnered national and international attention and is consistently ranked among top-tier programs in poetry and fiction. The program's curricular strengths, community outreach and close mentorship combine to define pragmatic, successful outcomes for students, new-century graduates and artist-citizens.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MFA Creative Writing

The MFA in creative writing at ASU has always been an unswervingly student-first program. Through small classes, intimate workshops or one-to-one mentoring, the centuries-old apprenticeship model thrives within the New American University. Poets and fiction writers work with outstanding faculty that have published more than 80 books and garnered national and international attention through awards that include:

- Guggenheim, Howard Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships
- International Griffin Poetry Prize
- Pulitzer Prize
- two Medals of Achievement from the National Society of Arts and Letters
- Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets

Additionally, in concert with the Master of Fine Arts program, the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing offers students a variety of creative and global fellowship opportunities each year, including two teaching fellowships in Singapore; two creative research fellowships to provide support for summer writing projects; and other generous forms of support that include graduate assistantships, travel scholarships, professional development support, and other teaching and leadership opportunities.

Furthermore, students have access to a variety of professional development opportunities, including serving on the editorial board of an international literary journal, Hayden's Ferry Review and internships with Four Way Books.
At a Glance

- College/School: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

48 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, and an applied project (ENG 593)

Coursework (39 credit hours)

Other Requirement (6 credit hours)
ENG 592 Research (6)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
ENG 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
The creative writing program requires 48 credit hours of study evenly divided between writing courses and literature courses designed to inform that writing.

While students are expected to satisfy these requirements in the genre in which they were accepted, the program encourages cross-genre study and electives can include courses taken outside of the creative writing program, even outside the English department.

A written comprehensive exam and an applied project are required.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Applicants should have an undergraduate major in English or creative writing; however, exceptional students who do not have either of these undergraduate majors may be admitted on the basis of writing excellence.
Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor’s degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. statement of purpose
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. three letters of recommendation
6. creative manuscript
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details about English proficiency requirements.

Students applying for funding must submit a statement of teaching philosophy. Students should see the Department of English website for specific details. Applicants for teaching assistanships also must submit an academic writing sample.

The personal statement should include the applicant’s writing background, intended area of specialization, a brief self-evaluation of recent work and the applicant's goals. The statement should be single-spaced, up to 1000 words.

Applicants must also submit three copies of the creative manuscript, up to 20 pages of poetry or up to 30 pages of prose.

The three letters of recommendation must consist of one copy of each letter from three recommenders.

The personal statement, the creative manuscript copies, and the letters of recommendation must be sent directly to:

Creative Writing Program
ASU Department of English
PO Box 1401
Tempe, AZ 85287-1401

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Career Opportunities

Contact Information

Department of English | RBHL 152
inggrad@asu.edu | 480-727-9130
Admission Deadlines