

Creative Writing

College of Arts & Sciences

The MFA in Creative Writing is a two-year program with a flexible and interdisciplinary approach, combining a studio/research curriculum. The UK MFA in Creative Writing places equal emphasis on fostering the artistic process of the MFA student, as well as his or her literary study and related creative or scholarly work.

Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

1. 24 hours of coursework following a plan drawn up in consultation with the student's advisor.
Coursework must include:
 - At least 9 hours of graduate writing workshop, ENG 607
 - At least 6 hours of courses related to the study of creative writing genres (ex. Craft of Poetry, Craft of Creative Nonfiction, Special Topics in Poetry/Fiction/Nonfiction, courses in Creative Writing Pedagogy, Publishing, etc.)
 - At least 6 hours of graduate courses designated as ENG, at the 600 or 700 levels, offered by the English department
 - At least 3 hours from a focus area outside the English department

Although a course may be designated as fitting into several categories, a student may apply each course to only one. Neither ENG 609 nor ENG 691 may count toward the 24 hour requirement.

2. Students in the Creative Writing program will give a presentation of a significant portion of their own written work produced while in residence. In this public reading/performance, the student exhibits his or her work before an audience of peers, faculty, and the general public.
3. In the fall of their second year (if not earlier), students will form their thesis committee. The committee consists of their thesis director and two additional faculty members. The committee must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. At least two committee members (including the thesis director) must have graduate faculty status, and at least one of the two must be a full member of the graduate faculty. At least two members of the committee should be from the English department. The committee should include at least one English creative writing faculty member and one English literature faculty member. The committee must be in place and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies by the end of the fall semester of the student's second year.
4. During the spring semester of their second year, students will complete a creative thesis, under the direction of a thesis advisor. The thesis will be a substantial body of original writing—over 120 pages of fiction (short stories, novella, or novel) or non-fiction, or a collection of approximately 48 poems, or an equivalent thesis of mixed genre. While the final project usually consists of a book-length manuscript, theses that are not strictly English Department Graduate Student Handbook 2014-2015 10 print-based may also be submitted. The thesis must be approved by the student's thesis committee.
5. MFA candidates who have completed their coursework who are receiving financial support from the University and/or utilizing University resources while working on their theses should enroll in ENG 748. Please contact Catherine Sizemore, Department Manager Associate, to enroll in this residency course.
6. Toward the end of the spring semester of the second year, the student will take a ninetyminute oral examination based on the thesis. The exam may be scheduled once the committee has agreed that the thesis is ready for defense. Students should contact Catherine Sizemore, Department Manager Associate, to schedule their exam. All committee members must be present for the entire examination (in extreme cases, committee members may use conference calls or skype, but must be available and in contact with the student and the rest of the committee during the entirety of the exam).

Important Deadlines and Paperwork for the Final Exam

1. During the spring semester of the second year, students must submit their application for degree through MyUK. The deadline to submit the application for a Spring 2015 degree is February 20th, 2015.
2. Students must submit the Request for Final Exam to the Graduate School (http://www.research.uky.edu/cfdocs/gs/MastersCommittee/Student/Selection_Screen.cfm) at least two weeks prior to their final exam. The last day to submit this form for a Spring 2015 exam is April 9 th, 2015. The final day to sit for a Spring 2015 exam is April 23rd, 2015.
3. After successfully completing the oral examination, students will have 60 days or until the last day of the semester (May 8th, 2015), whichever comes first, to submit their final, accepted document and their ETD Approval Form to the Graduate School. Prior to final submission, students must have their thesis reviewed via UKnowledge for a first format check.