MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH: CONCENTRATION IN CREATIVE WRITING

Admission to the Program

Students interested in this program must submit, via Cal State Apply (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply), a meaningful sample of their writing (15 to 20 pages of creative nonfiction or fiction, or 15–20 pages of literary translation, or a full-length stage play or two short plays, or 15 to 20 poems), three letters of recommendation, and transcripts. All application materials are to be uploaded by January 15 for the fall semester. Applicants from graduate creative writing programs at other colleges or universities may transfer six units to the M.A. program, on review and recommendation of the Creative Writing Admissions Committee and approval of the Division of Graduate Studies. For further clarification, contact the Creative Writing Department. Students accepted into the program with an undergraduate major that is not English are accepted conditionally. Admission to the M.A. does not imply admission to the M.F.A. Students who wish to earn both degrees must finish the M.A. before beginning the M.F.A. degree.

Written English Proficiency Requirement

Level One (Pre-admission)

Statement of purpose (500–1500 words) and writing sample (15 to 20 pages of creative nonfiction or fiction, or 15–20 pages of literary translation, or a full-length stage play or two short plays, or 15 to 20 poems) scored 8.0 or higher on a scale of one to ten based on the following criteria:

1. fluency and precision of expression;
2. ability to embody and illustrate ideas creatively; and
3. appropriateness of the applicant’s interests, life experiences and goals to the program.

Level Two

Satisfactory completion of C W 893MA on the following criteria: thesis deemed by two faculty readers to be publishable in part or whole (book, chapbook and/or literary journals).

Selected upper division courses offered by the department may be used for the master’s degree upon approval of a departmental advisor. Enrollment is not required in the semester of graduation.

English (M.A.): Concentration in Creative Writing – Minimum 30 units

Program (9 units)

Writing courses selected from the following:

- C W 803 Advanced Short Story Writing
- C W 804 Advanced Poetry Writing
- C W 807 Developing the Novel
- C W 808 Novel Writing
- C W 809 Directed Writing for Graduate Students
- C W 899 Independent Study

Creative Process (9 units)

Creative process courses selected from the following:

- C W 785 Graduate Projects in the Teaching of Creative Writing
- C W 806 The Business of Creative Writing
- C W 810 Seminar in the Creative Process
- C W 814 Contemporary World Poetry
- C W 820 Writers on Writing
- C W 825 Playwright’s Theatre Workshop
- C W 840 Fourteen Hills Literary Magazine
- C W 850 Poetry Center Workshop
- C W 859 Practicum in Teaching
- C W 860 Teaching Creative Writing
- C W 866 Craft of Translation
- C W 875 Community Projects in Literature
- C W 899 Independent Study

Upper Division/Graduate Literature Courses (9 units)

Courses in the English, Comparative and World Literature, or Theatre Arts Departments, to be taken on advisement.

Culminating Experience (3 units)

- C W 893MA Written M.A. Creative Project

1 May be repeated for credit when topics vary.
2 May be taken for two semesters of credit.
3 May be taken for three semesters of credit.
4 May be taken for six semesters of credit.