

# Writing, MFA

## Master's Candidacy

To earn a master's degree at Washington University, a student must complete all courses required by their department; maintain satisfactory academic progress; fulfill all academic and residence requirements; and file an Intent to Graduate. For a general layout of master's degree general requirements in Arts & Sciences, including an explanation of Satisfactory Academic Progress, students should review the Master's Degree Academic Information page of the Arts & Sciences *Bulletin*.

## Program Requirements

- **Total Units Required: 42**
- **Degree Length: 2 years**
  - Students are expected to be enrolled in 12 graduate credit units (6 of which consist of the graduate workshop in their chosen genre) during each semester of their first year. Students are expected to be enrolled in 9 graduate credit units (6 of which consist of the graduate workshop in their chosen genre) during each semester of their second year.
  - **Note:** Students must be enrolled in 9 graduate credits each semester to retain full-time status. As students complete their course work, if enrolled in fewer than 9 graduate credits, they must enroll in a specific Arts & Sciences graduate course that will show 0 units but does count as full-time status. Students should connect with their department to ensure proper enrollment prior to Add/Drop.

The Writing program leads to the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Writing. This is a two-year program that requires satisfactory completion of 42 credit units, a thesis, and an oral examination dealing principally with the thesis. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA.

## Courses

Of the 42 credit units required, 24 consist of the graduate nonfiction, fiction, or poetry workshop taken every semester. The remainder are primarily literature and craft courses from the English department. However, in consultation with the director of the program, graduate-level courses from any department that will enrich the student's writing are acceptable as long as the student has the appropriate preparation and the permission of the instructor.

During their first year, students enroll for 24 units: the graduate workshop in their genre (6 units) plus two additional 3-unit courses each semester. During their second year, while participating in the mentored teaching experience, students typically take a total of 18 units: the workshop each semester (12 units), thesis hours (3 units), and an additional course.

Code	Title	Units
Writing 520	Fiction Workshop	3
Writing 522	Poetry Workshop	6
Writing 523	Creative Nonfiction Workshop	6
Writing 591	Directed Writing: Thesis: Fiction	3
Writing 592	Directed Writing: Thesis: Poetry	3
Writing 593	Directed Writing: Thesis: Creative Nonfiction	3

## Thesis Requirements

The required work for the MFA culminates in a thesis, which may take different forms but is usually a volume (or most of a volume) of poems, stories, or essays; a novel (or most of a novel); or a memoir or other long-form creative nonfiction work (or most of one).

## Oral Examination

Near the end of the second year, after the thesis has been submitted in its final form, the program will schedule an oral examination that deals principally with the thesis.

## Required Courses

MFA students are required to enroll in the Graduate Workshop in their genre each semester.

Code	Title	Units
Writing 520	Fiction Workshop	3
Writing 522	Poetry Workshop	6
Writing 523	Creative Nonfiction Workshop	6

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