

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF CREATIVE WRITING

Program Learning Outcomes for the MFA Degree

Upon completing the MFA degree, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to integrate creative research into artistic production across genres and media, contributing to innovation in contemporary literature.
2. Demonstrate the ability to develop and implement writing projects that engage with diverse communities, addressing real-world issues and fostering collaboration.
3. Demonstrate a global and cross-cultural writing practice by studying, translating, and engaging with literary traditions beyond the Anglophone world.
4. Develop and demonstrate their personalized approach to teaching creative writing that can respond to diverse learning environments, whether in university classrooms, community settings, or public workshops

Requirements for the MFA Degree

The MFA degree in the field of Creative Writing is a thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Thesis Master's Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/>). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/>). Students pursuing the MFA degree in the field of Creative Writing must complete:

- A minimum of 18 courses (54 credit hours) to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 54 credit hours of graduate-level study (graduate semester credit hours, coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 48 graduate semester credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum residency enrollment of three fall or spring semesters of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 graduate semester credit hours) from transfer credit. For additional departmental guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 2) tab.
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework.
- A minimum program GPA of 2.67 or higher in all Rice coursework that satisfies requirements for the thesis master's degree.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program's academic advisor or, where applicable, the department or program's Director of Graduate Studies. Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's [Official Certifier](#) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/dgeworks/officialcertifier/>). Additionally, these course substitutions must be approved by the Office of Graduate

and Postdoctoral Studies. Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Total Credit Hours Required for the MFA Degree in the field of Creative Writing		

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		
Craft and Practice of Writing ¹		
CRWR 5XX	(THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF LITERARY TRANSLATION)	3
Select 4 courses from the following:		
CRWR 5XX	(THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF POETRY)	12
CRWR 5XX	(THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF NONFICTION)	
CRWR 5XX	(THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF RESEARCH)	
CRWR 5XX	(THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF LITERARY TRANSLATION)	
Practicum in Community-Engaged Writing		
CRWR 6XX	(PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED WRITING, 2 semesters required, 1st semester)	3
CRWR 6XX	(PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED WRITING, 2 semesters required, 2nd semester)	3
Creative Writing Pedagogy		
ENGL 510	PEDAGOGY SEMINAR (2 semesters required, 1st semester)	3
ENGL 510	PEDAGOGY SEMINAR (2 semesters required, 2nd semester)	3
Teaching Practicum		
ENGL 601	FALL TEACHING PRACTICUM	3
ENGL 602	SPRING TEACHING PRACTICUM	3
Workshop		
CRWR 7XX	(MANUSCRIPT WRITING)	3
Elective Requirements		
Select 4 courses as Electives at the 500-level or above ²		
Thesis Requirement ²		
ENGL 509	MASTER'S THESIS (2 semesters required, 1st semester)	3
ENGL 509	MASTER'S THESIS (2 semesters required, 2nd semester)	3
Total Credit Hours		54

Footnotes and Additional Information

¹ 5 courses (15 credit hours) selected from the Craft and Practice of Writing category are required. 1 of the 5 courses (3 credit hours) must be *Craft and Practice of Literary Translation*. The remaining 4 courses (12 credit hours) can be selected from the other Craft and Practice of Writing courses, which are repeatable for credit.

² Students must coordinate their degree planning (including Elective Requirements and the Thesis Requirement) with the Program Director and Advisor.

Proposed Plan-of-Study

The following plan-of-study represents the current lockstep two-semester sequence in which students pursuing the MFA degree complete the required coursework.

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Year		
1st Semester		
CRWR 5XX	THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF WRITING Elective one ¹	3
CRWR XXX	Elective one ²	3
CRWR 6XX	PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED WRITING, 2 semesters required, 1st semester	3
	Credit Hours	9
2nd Semester		
CRWR 5XX	THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF WRITING Elective two ¹	3
CRWR XXX	Elective two ²	3
CRWR 6XX	PRACTICUM IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED WRITING, 2 semesters required, 2nd semester	3
	Credit Hours	9
Second Year		
3rd Semester		
CRWR 5XX	THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF WRITING Elective three ¹	3
CRWR XXX	Elective three ²	3
ENGL 510	PEDAGOGY SEMINAR (2 semesters required, 1st semester)	3
	Credit Hours	9
4th Semester		
CRWR 5XX	THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF WRITING Elective four ¹	3
CRWR 5XX	THE CRAFT AND PRACTICE OF WRITING Elective five ¹	3
ENGL 510	PEDAGOGY SEMINAR (2 semesters required, 2nd semester)	3
	Credit Hours	9
Third Year		
5th Semester		
CRWR XXX	Elective four ²	3
ENGL 509	MASTER'S THESIS (2 semesters required, 1st semester) ²	3

ENGL 601	FALL TEACHING PRACTICUM	3
	Credit Hours	9
6th Semester		
CRWR 7XX	MANUSCRIPT WORKSHOP	3
ENGL 509	MASTER'S THESIS (2 semesters required, 2nd semester) ²	3
ENGL 602	SPRING TEACHING PRACTICUM	3
	Credit Hours	9
	Total Credit Hours	54

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Policies for the MFA Degree

Department of English and Creative Writing Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the Department of English and Creative Writing publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [\(https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2025_26/English_Graduate_Handbook.pdf\)](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2025_26/English_Graduate_Handbook.pdf).

Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer) (<https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Requests for transfer credit must be approved for Rice equivalency by the appropriate academic department offering the Rice equivalent course (corresponding to the subject code of the course content) and by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the MFA degree should be aware of the following departmental transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of credit from another U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the degree.
- Transfer courses must be comparable in content and depth to the corresponding course at Rice and must not have counted toward another degree.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the English and Creative Writing website: <https://english.rice.edu/>.

Opportunities for the MFA Degree

Information regarding resources and opportunities for Department of English and Creative Writing graduate students, including the graduate symposium, funding and award opportunities, certificate and special seminar information, as well as job market resources, is available on the *Graduate* section of the department website, and can be accessed here: <https://english.rice.edu/>.

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