



The MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Miami

The University of Miami's MFA Program offers a fully funded, two-year course of study in the writing of poetry, fiction, or cross-genre literature while providing substantial training in the teaching of creative writing and writing studies (first-year college writing). Our program features the opportunity to apply for a third year of funding during which graduate students focus on professional development and publication as they continue to teach undergraduate writing courses. The program features a broad multilingual focus in a vibrant, multicultural city unlike any other. Enrollment is kept deliberately small to maximize student-teacher interaction, and faculty at UM are supportive of the linguistic and cultural differences that writers bring to their art. Graduate students who enter our program come from around the United States and also from abroad.

All our graduate students are fully funded by the James Michener Fellowships or the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Assistantships. Awards include a graduate tuition waiver for full-time study and annual stipend of \$29,915. MFA candidates teach one section of Introduction to Creative Writing per semester during their second year in the program or one section each of Creative Writing and Writing Studies. Students who are awarded a third year teach two sections of Writing Studies or Creative Writing per semester while receiving faculty mentorship towards professional development.

Graduates of the MFA in Creative Writing have gone on to publish award winning novels, books of poetry, and creative nonfiction; have been awarded Stegner Fellowships and other residencies; and have gone on to find employment in teaching and publishing.

The MFA in Creative Writing is a terminal degree. Candidates must complete between 36-42 credits. 18 of these are taken in the area of writing specialization. These include workshop courses (12 credits) and thesis (6 credits). The remaining credits are taken in forms/craft classes (12 credits), electives (6 credits), and, for those with a teaching assistantship, a creative writing teaching practicum and the option of taking a second teaching practicum in preparation for teaching writing studies. Among the variety of electives, graduate students have taken courses in literature, interactive media, screenwriting, and photography. Teaching assistants have the option to take one section of workshop or forms either within their concentration or in the other during the third year.

The final thesis must be a book-length manuscript in the student's field of interest. In fiction an approximate one hundred fifty pages are expected; in poetry, fifty. A portfolio is due at the end of the final semester. It consists of a critical paper, a sample of creative work, a self-assessment, and an annotated bibliography. A student's thesis committee is made up of an advisor, a second reader, and an outside reader.

Applications are online. To apply, go to <https://applygrad.miami.edu/apply>. Our application deadline is January 15, 2025. Here are the materials you'll need to apply:

Writing Sample: Upload a writing sample of fiction or poetry. Up to thirty pages in fiction or twelve pages in poetry. The committee reads the sample writing with great interest so submit work that reflects your best work. No manuscripts can be returned, and applicants should retain copies of all work submitted.

Statement: The statement of purpose gives the committee a sense of the writer or poet's intentions and how they hope to meet them within our program. This statement isn't just about why you want to be a writer, but how being in a community of writers and working with faculty and your peers will help you develop your life as a writer or poet. Next to the writing sample, this statement is of greatest interest to the committee.

Diversity Statement: This statement gives the faculty a sense of how diversity and inclusion relate to your writing life.

Three Letters of Recommendation: Submit three letters of recommendation from persons who can speak to the applicant's potential as a writer and a student.

Transcripts: You may upload unofficial copies of your transcripts through the online application for application review purposes. If you are admitted, official transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions.

All graduate applicants who have attended a college or university outside of the United States must submit official transcripts and diplomas for evaluation.

International students whose native language is not English must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Duolingo English Test. Please see more information on the Graduate School website: <http://grad.miami.edu> .

GPA: While it is recommended that applicants have an undergraduate major in English, the program does not discourage applicants from other undergraduate disciplines. Regardless of their undergraduate major, applicants should have a 3.2 grade-point average on a 4.00 scale.

For more information, you can email us at: ENGLISHGRAD@miami.edu