Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Media Arts
University of Missouri-Kansas City

The Department of English offers the degree Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Creative Writing and Media Arts. This interdisciplinary degree includes coursework in allied programs in Communication Studies and Theatre. The 42-hour program provides learning opportunities in writing, literary publishing, broadcasting, screen and stage writing, and production skills. The M.F.A. is a terminal degree in the field of creative writing and is designed to prepare students for careers as literary artists, authors, playwrights, poets, teachers, and screenwriters.

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing and Media Arts is a studio/research degree that is based on the concept that successful writers grow from a deep understanding of the best that has been written and from a powerful drive to push the traditions of writing within and without their own genre, time, language, and medium.

Please visit our website at: http://cas.umkc.edu/english/grad-program/mfa.asp
Admission Requirements
MFA in Creative Writing & Media Arts

The application process is competitive. Satisfying the admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

The applicant must hold:

- A B.A. in English, or a B.A. degree that includes at least 30 hours of sophomore-, junior- or senior-level English courses, or the equivalent. Applicants with fewer than 30 hours of undergraduate English courses may be admitted and assigned additional coursework as part of their program. These extra hours are added to the hours required for graduation.
- A 3.0 cumulative grade-point average in undergraduate work and a 3.0 average in undergraduate English coursework. In unusual circumstances, the Graduate Committee may consider applicants with lower grade-point averages.

The applicant must submit:

- A complete application to the university. The university application should be sent to the UMKC Admissions Office. All other materials should be sent to Graduate Programs, Department of English, Cockefair Hall 106.
- A complete application for admission to the M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Media Arts.
- A recommended 60 percent or higher score on the verbal aptitude portion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
- A writing sample that demonstrates the applicant's writing abilities. A sample in a single emphasis area (no more than 10 pages for poetry; no more than 30 pages for all other disciplines: fiction, creative nonfiction, playwriting or screenwriting) is required.
- A statement of purpose that describes the applicant's academic and professional objectives. In an essay of 400 to 500 words, applicants should discuss in detail their interest in their emphasis area (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, playwriting or screenwriting), and their experience and goals in the area.
- Three letters of recommendation that evaluate the applicant's readiness for graduate study written by three professors or others who know the applicant's abilities and potential well.
- Optional: A complete Graduate Teaching Assistantship application and Teaching Statement if you would like to be considered for this opportunity. A statement of teaching philosophy should detail your qualifications, experiences, and/or potential as a teacher in a college classroom. Note: The GTA application requires an academic writing sample, which is separate from the creative sample submitted for admission to the M.F.A.

Students may be permitted to transfer up to six hours of graduate credit in English from a previous graduate-level program.

Updated 3-7-15
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ENGLISH
MFA PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING AND MEDIA ARTS

Print, complete, and submit this form and an application packet to: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 5121 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO 64110. These materials cannot be submitted electronically. Also, you must submit the required UMKC (university) application and transcripts to:
Admissions Office, UMKC, Administrative Center, 5100 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO 64110

A complete application includes:
1) A completed English Department application form (this form) 
   DEADLINE: JANUARY 15
2) An official GRE verbal score
3) A writing sample (see website for guidelines)
4) Three letters of recommendation
5) Statement of purpose

Also, you must submit the required UMKC (university) application and transcripts to the Admissions Office.
Visit our website for more information: http://cas.umkc.edu/english/grad-program/mfa.asp

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION
Name (last, first, middle): ____________________________________________

2. CONTACT INFORMATION: Address (number, street, apt) ______________
   (city, state, country, zip code) ________________________________

   Email address: ______________________________  Phone (home, cell): __________

3. EDUCATION: List all colleges and universities attended with dates, degrees, and majors

   COLLEGE or UNIVERSITY  DATES  MAJOR/MINOR  GPA
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

4. CORE GENRE: Please circle your choice of genre of study: creative nonfiction, fiction, playwriting, poetry, or screenwriting.

5. GRE SCORE: An official copy of your score from ETS must be received by UMKC by Jan. 15.
   Indicate your Verbal Score (as percentile): _____  Date of Exam: _____

6. LANGUAGES: Indicate the foreign language courses you have had, if any. Two years of a college-level foreign language must be completed to fulfill the MFA degree requirements.

7. PUBLICATIONS/AWARDS: Please list any publications, scholarships, and fellowships.

8. REFERENCES: List the names and addresses of at least three university professors or others acquainted with your academic interests, accomplishments, and skills, who will be providing your with letters of reference.
   a. ____________________________________________
   b. ____________________________________________
   c. ____________________________________________
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Department of English

Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application Form

If you wish to be considered for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (see description), please attach a 250-500 word statement addressing your interest in and qualifications for teaching and/or tutoring. (NOTE: Positions in the College of Arts & Science's APP tutoring program may also be available. For more information, contact Dr. Anthony Shiu, Graduate Director in English, at shiu@umkc.edu)

Name:

Graduate Emphasis Area:
_______ M.A. in English
_______ M.A. in English, Language and Literature track (Composition, Rhetoric, Linguistics, and Literature)
_______ M.A. in English, Manuscript, Print Culture, and Editing track
_______ M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Media Arts
_______ I-PhD in __________ (Coordinating Discipline) and __________ (Co-Discipline)

Please include a sample of academic writing from an upper-level college course.

A GTA will teach one section of a freshman composition class per semester.
**Evaluation for Graduate Work in English or Creative Writing**

I realize that I do have a right under PL 93-380, “The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,” to inspect my references held by UMKC. I hereby voluntarily waive my right of access to the confidential statements contained in this form.

Student Signature: ___________________________________ Date: ________________

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________ is a candidate for the graduate program in English at the Department of English at The University of Missouri – Kansas City. Please attach a letter that addresses the applicant’s abilities and aptitude for graduate work in English. Please also address the applicant's abilities as a teaching assistant or research assistant.

Return completed evaluation forms to:

Graduate Program - Department of English
University of Missouri – Kansas City, 5121 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO  64110

1. How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. Compared with other students of similar age and experience known to you, what is your judgment of the applicant’s

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3. Please use the reverse side for further comments or attach a letter.

Name: ____________________________________________________

Signature: _________________________________________________

Title/Position: ______________________________________________

Institution: _______________ _________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________

Date: __________________
THE MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING & MEDIA ARTS

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total credits required for graduation: 42 credit hours
At least 27 credit hours must be at the graduate level (courses numbered 5000 and above) and taught by a member of the graduate faculty. Students may take up to 15 credit hours at the 400 level.

Students will choose to focus on one of the following genres:
Creative Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, Playwriting, Screenwriting

*Students must remain continuously enrolled, except in Summer, for a minimum of 1 credit hour per semester. ENGLISH 5899 is the continuous enrollment course number.

*Students must maintain a 3.0 (B) grade-point average to remain in the M.F.A. program and to complete the degree.

*Students must complete all coursework in seven years.

Residency requirements

A minimum of 33 hours must be completed at UMKC.

Foreign Language Requirement

By the time of graduation from the M.F.A. program, students must have completed one year (two university semesters) of a foreign language. Alternatively, the foreign language requirement may be satisfied by scoring a “C” on the final exam of the first-year, second-semester course in a foreign language. Previous undergraduate coursework may be used to satisfy this requirement. Old English may satisfy one semester of this requirement. Foreign language credits do not apply toward the 42-hour degree requirement, unless taken at the graduate level.

Program of Study

Students must complete a formal Program of Study and have it signed by their advisor within a year after admission. A final Program of Study must be submitted and signed during the semester a student files to graduate.
Courses and Credits Required

Literature Requirement: 12 hours minimum

Students choose from among more than 65 literature courses listed below. Their principal focus will be in the core genre in which they plan to write their final portfolio, but they may also reach into other genres as well. With their advisor’s permission, students may also choose courses from other departments.

5508  Harlem Renaissance
5510  Black Women Writers
5512  Chaucer
5513  Renaissance Literature I
5514  Milton
5515  18th Century Literature
5516  The Romantic Period
5517  Modern Poetry
5518  19th Century Literature
5519  Problems in Teaching English
5522  Medieval Literature
5523  Renaissance Literature II
5524  18th Century Literature II
5526  Victorian Period
5527  Contemporary Poetry
5528  20th Century American Literature
5534  Postcolonial Literature
5539  Shakespeare and Film
5550A Graduate Seminar Medieval Literature I (3)
5550B Graduate Seminar Renaissance Literature I (3)
5550C Graduate Seminar Neo-Classical Literature I (3)
5550D Graduate Seminar 19th Century Literature I (3)
5550E Graduate Seminar American Literature I (3)
5550F Graduate Seminar Modern Literature I (3)
5550G Graduate Seminar Literary Criticism (3)
5550H Graduate Seminar Studies in Fiction I (3)
5550I Graduate Seminar in Dramatic Literature I (3)
5550R Seminar in Comparative Literature: Pre-Eighteenth Century (3)
5551  Shakespeare Comedies and Histories (3)
5552  Early English Drama
5553  Modern Drama 1880-1945 (3)
5555A Graduate Seminar Medieval Literature II (3)
5555B Graduate Seminar Renaissance Literature II (3)
5555C Graduate Seminar Neo-Classical Literature I (3)
5555D Graduate Seminar in 19th Century Literature II (3)
5555E Graduate Seminar American Literature II (3)
5555F Graduate Seminar in Modern Literature (3)
5555G Graduate Seminar Literary Criticism (3)
5555H Graduate Seminar Studies in Fiction II (3)
5555I Graduate Seminar in Dramatic Literature II (3)
5555J Graduate Seminar English Language (3)

**Communications Studies Department**

339  Film Theory and Criticism
384  Documentary Film
391  The Worlds of Alfred Hitchcock
392  Great Directors of Foreign Film
393  History of the Hollywood Musical
394  The World of "Film Noir"
402  American Social Film
403  Radical Changes Since 1945

**Theatre Department**

400F  Special Problems in Theatre: History
400M  Special Problems in Theatre: Theory and Criticism
400N  Special Problems in Theatre: Dramaturgy
401CH CC: The Practice and Study of Creativity
5505  French Drama and Theatre
5507  19th-Century Continental Theatre
5508  20th-Century Continental Theatre
5509  Russian Drama and Theatre
5510  History of the American Theatre I
5511  History of the American Theatre II
5512R History of the English Stage I
5513  History of the English Stage II
5517  Theatre History I
5560  Theatre History II
5563  Text Analysis I
5564  Text Analysis II
5590M Directed Graduate Studies: Theory and Criticism
5590N Directed Graduate Studies: Dramaturgy

**Creative Writing and Media Studies Requirement: 12 hours minimum**

Students will complete at least four courses in their core genre chosen from among the 28 “Craft, Workshop, and Production courses” listed below. With an advisor’s permission, other courses may apply.

**English Department**

448  External Internship
449  Publication Practicum
5501  Magazine Editing
5502  Magazine Nonfiction
5532  Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction
5535  Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry
5536 Poetic Forms
5537 Prose Forms
5550K Graduate Seminar: Creative Writing Prose
5555K Graduate Seminar in Creative Writing: Poetry
5555N Graduate Seminar: Prose
5555J Graduate Seminar English Language
5575 Graduate Seminar: Creative Nonfiction

**Communications Studies Department**
354 (for MFAs: COMS 5597) Introduction to Screenwriting
454 (for MFAs: COMS 5598) Advanced Screenwriting
385 Documentary Production
457 Producing and Distributing Media
470 Directing
471 Advanced Media Production
5554 Graduate Seminar: Screenwriting

**Theatre Department**
400H Special Problems in Theatre: Playwriting
437 Playwriting I
438 Playwriting II
415 Beginning Directing
5516A Technical Production for the Practitioner I
5516B Technical Production for the Practitioner II
5545 Professional Acting Techniques I
5565 Introduction to Professional Directing
5578 Profession Theatre Administrations
5590H Directed Graduate Studies: Playwriting

**Interdisciplinary Requirement: 6 hours minimum**

Students must take two “Craft, Workshop, and Production Courses” outside their core genre. These two courses may, but need not necessarily be, in the same genre, i.e., student whose core focus is poetry may take one workshop in fiction and one in screenwriting, for example, to fulfill the interdisciplinary requirement.

**Thesis Requirement: 6 hours minimum** (see details below)

**Free elective credits: 0 to 6 credit hours**

From the list of literary classes above, students complete sufficient credit hours to bring the total of all requirements to 42 credit hours. With advisor’s approval, students may also select electives from other departments.

**Requirements for Thesis**
In consultation with the faculty, the student will choose a thesis committee comprised of three members: 1) a thesis director from the MFA faculty; 2) a second member from the MFA faculty; 3) a third member (non-MFA faculty) selected from the English Department, the faculties of other UMKC Departments, or the faculty of another institution. At least one committee member must be from the Department of English. Under the guidance of the thesis director, the student will complete a publishable or producible manuscript of one of the following:

- Book of poems (45-65 pages).
- Book of short stories or creative nonfiction essays (minimum of 180 pages).
- Novel or novel-length nonfiction book (minimum of 180 pages).
- Full-length or several one-act plays.
- Feature-length screenplay or two tv episodes and series bible (minimum of 90 pages).
- Full-length cross-genre work, with the permission of the thesis director.

At the completion of the writing project the student will meet with his or her committee for a one-hour defense of the thesis.

**Any Unique Features, such as Interdepartmental Cooperation**

Although administered by the Department of English, the interdisciplinary MFA in Creative Writing and Media Arts will allow students the option of developing their writing focus in the Department of Theatre or in the Department of Communication Studies. The Theatre Department’s MFA degrees in Acting and Technical Theatre thus extend and complement the range of curricular possibilities for students. The flexibility of the program will permit students to tailor their programs to meet their personal needs and interests and to experiment with and create new forms of literature. Students must complete at least six hours outside their writing focus area including one creative writing, craft workshop or production course chosen from those listed in list of literary classes above.

Thesis directors may approve courses in other departments that may be highly valuable for particular student programs, e.g., History for Documentary Film, Foreign Language for Translation, Philosophy for Aesthetics and Theoretical/Experimental Approaches, and Art. Collaborative directed studies may be offered to allow two or more students to use two or more genres/media. Students may also seek collaborative opportunities in the Conservatory of Music and Dance and in Computer Science.

Updated 3.7.15