

# CREATIVE WRITING, MFA

The Roosevelt MFA in creative writing is designed to provide writers with the tools and guidance to express their knowledge of human experience and their personal and community aspirations in well-crafted fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and dramatic scripts. Staffed by professional writers distinguished for their abilities as teachers, creative writing at Roosevelt is an innovative program dedicated to developing students' literary knowledge and sense of writer's craft while offering real-world guidance for negotiating a future career in writing. To achieve this, the program offers three kinds of experience:

- Practice of various literary forms through workshops in fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and/or screen writing
- Course work in literary traditions, literary and critical theory, contemporary aesthetic developments, practical analysis of the principles of critique, and prevailing forces and protocols in the literary marketplace
- Training and experience in one or more practical applications of writing, such as editing, publishing, and marketing; public service writing internships placing students in nonprofit or corporate organizations; teaching writing – whether composition, literature, or creative writing – in the University, and creative writing in community youth and senior centers in the Chicago area

## Admission

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and submit the university graduate application, the creative writing application, three letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, and a portfolio of written work consistent with the requirements listed in the specialty fields below. Applicants who show promise, despite being short of the required quantity of samples, may be referred to other courses in order to build portfolios that will qualify them for admission.

## Requirements

To earn an MFA in creative writing, students must complete 45 credit hours of graduate work including 21 credit hours of writing workshops; 12 credit hours in literature or theory; three credit hours in a practical writing internship; an additional elective or internship; and six credit hours of thesis work. Internships are in public service writing, publishing, arts administration, or teaching.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Four workshop courses in specialty area		12
Two elective workshops in a secondary area		6
One elective workshop		3
Four courses in literature and theory		12
Internship		3
Elective in literature, writing workshop, or additional internship		3
Thesis		6
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

A student who has not completed a thesis or other final project must maintain continued registration during fall and spring semesters until completion of the project by registering for the appropriate zero-credit course (course number followed by "Y"). Students who have not maintained continuous registration for thesis or other final project will be

required to register for all intervening fall and spring semesters prior to graduation.

## Specialization in Fiction

In this sequence of classes, students will work on the process of creating, rewriting, editing, and publishing fiction. Emphasis will be placed on composition, analysis, and critique of narrative and non-narrative forms in a workshop environment. Candidates in the fiction specialty will complete all of the core fiction workshops. These studies will culminate in a thesis project consisting of a novel or book-length fiction collection of publishable quality.

Admission to fiction requires consent of the faculty upon review of a portfolio containing three pieces of fiction totaling at least 5,000 words, a resume of publications and readings, if applicable, and a statement of purpose.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Four workshop courses in specialty area</b>		<b>12</b>
One Class in Fiction Forms Workshop -Primary Genre		
CRWR 431A	FICTION FORMS WORKSHOP	
Three Classes in Topics Fiction Workshop - Primary Genre		
CRWR 431B	TOPICS: FICTION WORKSHOP	
<b>Two elective workshops in a secondary area</b>		<b>6</b>
CRWR 434A	CREATIVE NONFICTION FORMS WORKSHOP	
CRWR 434B	TOPICS: NON FICTION WORKSHOP	
<b>One elective workshop</b>		<b>3</b>
CRWR 432A	POETRY FORMS WORKSHOP	
or CRWR 437	SCREEN WRITING	
<b>Four classes in ENG 4XX (Literature and/or Theory)</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>One Class of Internship</b>		<b>3</b>
CRWR 483	LITERARY MAGAZINE INTERNSHIP	
or ENG 484	INTERNSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY	
or ENG 485		
or ENG 486		
or ENG 487		
<b>One Elective in CRWR 4XX (Creative Writing) or ENG 4XX (English)</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Thesis requirement</b>		<b>6</b>
CRWR 490	MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING THESIS	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

## Specialization in Creative Nonfiction

Writers interested in developing their skills as essayists, critics, biographers, or other relevant nonfiction specialists will find ample opportunities and direction to meet their goals. Although this genre often uses many of the narrative essentials of fiction, like point of view, voice, and plot, it relies on life experience coordinated with research, both documentary and interview. Declared nonfiction specialists will complete all of the core nonfiction workshops. These studies will culminate in a thesis project consisting of a book-length nonfiction work of publishable quality.

Admission to creative nonfiction requires consent of the faculty upon review of a portfolio of at least three essays of approximately 5,000

words. The portfolio should also include a resume of publications and readings, if applicable, and a statement of purpose.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Four workshop courses in specialty area</b>		<b>12</b>
One Class in Fiction Forms Workshop -Primary Genre		
CRWR 434A	CREATIVE NONFICTION FORMS WORKSHOP	
Three Classes in Topics Fiction Workshop - Primary Genre		
CRWR 434B	TOPICS: NON FICTION WORKSHOP	
<b>Two elective workshops in a secondary area</b>		<b>6</b>
CRWR 431A	FICTION FORMS WORKSHOP	
CRWR 431B	TOPICS: FICTION WORKSHOP	
<b>One elective workshop</b>		<b>3</b>
CRWR 432A	POETRY FORMS WORKSHOP	
or CRWR 437:SCREEN WRITING		
<b>Four classes in ENG 4XX (Literature and/or Theory)</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>One Class of Internship</b>		<b>3</b>
CRWR 483	LITERARY MAGAZINE INTERNSHIP	
or ENG 484 INTERNSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY		
or ENG 485		
or ENG 486		
or ENG 487		
<b>One Elective in CRWR 4XX (Creative Writing) or ENG 4XX (English)</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Thesis requirement</b>		<b>6</b>
CRWR 490	MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING THESIS	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>45</b>

## Practical Writing Internships

**Publishing:** Students may enroll in CRWR 383: Literary Magazine Production, the class that produces *Oyez Review*, the professionally edited literary journal affiliated with the program, or may be placed with a publisher in the Chicago community.

**Public-service writing:** Students will be placed with a compatible nonprofit concern where they can exercise skills in technical and promotional grant writing and other forms of professional and written expression.

**Teaching:** Students may opt for an internship in the Roosevelt English composition program or in literature or creative writing, or they may develop and conduct creative writing workshops in community senior or youth centers.

**Literary marketing:** Students will be placed with an organization that develops and produces literary events throughout the city.

Your degree map is a general guide suggesting courses to complete each term on the academic pathway to your degree. It is based on the most current scheduling information from your academic program. Your program's degree map is reviewed annually and updated as schedules change (although you retain the same course requirements as long as you are continuously enrolled in your degree program).

Always work closely with your academic advisor to understand curriculum requirements and scheduling, as each student's academic plan can look slightly different. No more than two grades of C (not C-) may be applied toward the 45 hours used for the degree. A graduate

course can only be repeated once; no more than two courses can be repeated.

<b>Year 1</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CRWR 431A	3	CRWR 431B	3
CRWR 434A	3	CRWR 434B	3
ENG 4XX	3	CRWR 483, ENG 484, 485, 486, or 487	3
		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Year 2</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
CRWR 432A or 437	3	CRWR 43XB <sup>1</sup>	3
CRWR 43XB <sup>1</sup>	3	ENG 4XX	3
ENG 4XX	3	CRWR 490	3
		<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Year 3</b>			
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>		
ENG/CRWR 4XX	3		
CRWR 490	3		
ENG 4XX	3		
		<b>9</b>	
<b>Total Credit Hours 45</b>			

<sup>1</sup> For specialization in Fiction, students will take CRWR 431B. For specialization in Nonfiction, students will take CRWR 434B.