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M.F.A. in Creative Writing (49 CREDITS)

The MFA in Creative Writing is a low-residency program that allows students, with the oversight of a faculty mentor, to design their own concentrations in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, writing for stage and screen, or writing for young people. Lesley's MFA in Creative Writing program focuses on preparing students to become adventurous artists and active professionals.

Over two years students will attend a 9-day residency at the start of each semester. The residency will include workshops, seminars, lectures, and readings, providing a forum for intensive study, collaboration, and constructive critique of student work. Students will be matched with faculty mentors to create individualized study plans that incorporate rigorous reading lists. After each residency, students work on their own, under the guidance of faculty mentors.

Students earn a total of 49 credits. Grades for each semester will be pass/fail, accompanied by a narrative evaluation by the faculty mentor. As a final, one-credit requirement for graduation, students return for the final portion of a 5th residency to present a craft seminar and give an (optional) reading of their work.

PROGRAM OF STUDY		CREDITS
First Semester		**12**
GCRWT 6000	Creative Writing I	6
GCRWT 6001	Craft and Reflection I	3
GCRWT 6002	Interdisciplinary Studies I	3
Second Semester		**12**
GCRWT 6500	Creative Writing II	6
GCRWT 6501	Craft and Reflection II	3
GCRWT 6502	Interdisciplinary Studies II	3
Third Semester		**12**
GCRWT 7000	Creative Writing III	6
GCRWT 7001	Craft and Reflection III	3
GCRWT 7002	Interdisciplinary Studies III	3
Fourth Semester		**12**
GCRWT 7500	Creative Writing IV	6
GCRWT 7501	Graduating Seminar Preparation	3
GCRWT 7502	Creative Thesis	3
Final Residency Requirement		
GCRWT 7503		1
Total Credits Required		**49**

Accreditation:
Lesley University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and authorized to offer degree programs in many states.

For more information, please visit our website lesley.edu/accreditation.htm

Please Note: Lesley University reserves the right to unilaterally add, withdraw, or revise any course offering in the above mentioned program of study including policies, provisions, requirements, and fees.

Lesley University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, handicap or disability in its education programs, employment, or in admissions to, access to or treatment in its programs or activities

Sample Course Descriptions

GCRWT 6000: Creative Writing I
6 credits

Under the guidance of their faculty mentor, students design an appropriate study plan involving the production of both new work and revisions in their genre, and submit four submissions of creative writing over the distance-learning semester. Much of the first-semester students' creative writing reflects the techniques encountered in *Keynote* and *First-Year Genre* residency seminars—such as *Making a Scene; Shaping the Short Story; Dialogue: the Deliberate Illusion; From Meter to Free Verse;* and *Types of Imagery*—as well as their residency writing workshops.

GCRWT 6001: Craft & Reflection I
3 credits
Under the guidance of their faculty mentor, students develop a reading list of books in their genre that will be the basis for a series of papers focusing on specific craft issues and their relationship to the student's own writing. Students also compose detailed cover letters for each distance-learning submission, in which they reflect upon their artistic development. Students prepare for their work in Craft & Reflection I in residency seminars such as *Reading as a Writer, Reading and Writing for the Stage and Screen, Time and Ambition,* and *Writing Craft Annotations.*
** ***GCRWT 6501 Craft and Reflection II*** *builds upon these same principles.*

GCRWT 6002: Interdisciplinary Studies I
3 credits

Lesley's interdisciplinary approach constitutes a three-fold recognition: that the borders between artistic genres have become ever more porous; that contemporary writers must be alert to new models of career preparation; and, perhaps most importantly, that along with avid reading and writing, there are always other passions that feed a writer's imagination. In consultation with the Assistant Coordinator, students design individual, 3-credit interdisciplinary projects for the first three of their four distance-learning semesters. Examples include: publishing and editing internships at magazines and publishing houses; independent studies in interviewing, reviewing, magazine writing, copy editing, translation, word & image, and writing the ten-minute play; research for writing projects; courses in art, literature, and the teaching of writing; taking graduate courses at Lesley; teaching assistantships. The Interdisciplinary Studies credits are meant to support the students' writing, or to enable them to develop new writing-related skills and experiences. The central purpose of the interdisciplinary project, however, is simple and singular: it should feed students' creative writing or aspirations to be working writers when they graduate.

GCRWT 6500 Creative Writing II
6 credits

In their second residency and semester, students work with a new faculty mentor in their genre, designing a study plan that grows out of the work they produced and revised in their first distance-learning semester. Attending residency writing workshops critiquing new work or substantially revised work, students anticipate a semester of more rigorous revision and greater subtlety of expression. Second-semester residency seminars—*The Truth in Fiction: Joyce's Dubliners; When Writing Takes on the World; Metaphoros: Making Transformation in Poetry and Prose; On Observation: Seeing as a Writer*—reflect this increased complexity.

GCRWT 7001: Craft & Reflection III
3 credits

In addition to their reflective cover letters, students' critical work for Craft & Reflection III consists of a single craft essay of approximately 12-18 pages (3,500 to 5,500 words). MFA candidates and faculty mentors discuss this essay during the study plan conference and specify the reading required or the essay and the schedule for submitting drafts. Like the craft annotations, the third-semester craft essay explores, in detail, a question of style or technique, but with a more ambitious scope.

GCRWT 7000: Creative Writing III
6 credits

Creative Writing III inaugurates the students' second year, introduces them to a third faculty mentor's aesthetic approach, and signals a qualitative leap in sophistication. *Advanced Topic* residency seminars—*Type-A Revision* and *Shaping the Book,* for instance—reinforce the increasing subtlety of craft issues explored. Residency workshops and study plans also raise the aesthetic bar. During the third residency, students attend their first thesis-preparation meeting, to help them anticipate the quantitative and qualitative requirements of the MFA thesis.

GCRWT 7500: Creative Writing IV
6 credits

During the fourth residency's thesis study plan conferences, the MFA Candidate and the Thesis Advisor discuss what proportions of new work (GCWRT 7500 Creative Writing IV) and revision (GCRWT 7502 Creative Thesis are likely to make the most sense for the MFA Candidate's thesis-in-progress. New creative writing is now firmly focused on the creative thesis, and the border between revision and "new writing" becomes appropriately blurred. Thesis students attend a second, more detailed thesis-preparation meeting, and the Capstone residency seminars – *Prize-Winning Writing, How to Design a Seminar, The Uses of Self-Doubt in Writing* – focus, in part, on students as working and publishing writers in the world.

GCRWT 7501: Graduating Seminar Preparation

3 Credits

Under the direction of the candidate's fourth-semester faculty mentor serving as the Graduating Seminar Advisor, the candidate prepares a 30-45 minute Graduating Seminar to be offered during the graduating residency. Based on a class agenda and reading list refined during the semester, the seminar is relevant to the student's writing concentration, but can include multi-genre or interdisciplinary elements.

GCRWT 7502: Creative Thesis
3 Credits

During the thesis semester, MFA candidates prepare and submit a creative thesis for evaluation by the thesis advisor and one other MFA faculty member in the candidate's field of writing, who serves as the graduating candidate's thesis reader. A Creative Thesis passes only after a Thesis Approval Form is signed by two MFA Writing Faculty Members and the Program Director