

Creative Writing

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The low-residency MFA at Whitworth is a creative writing program for apprentice writers who not only want to pursue accomplishment in the craft of writing but also place their work within the larger context of world literature by writers of faith.

This unique program is built around a series of in-person residencies and online tutorials, both led by Whitworth faculty and creative writing professionals. Residencies run in January and July, allowing students the opportunity to engage in seminars and workshops that explore and develop their craft, their understanding of their genre, and the role of faith in their creative work—all while building community within cohorts and with Whitworth. Students meet with their mentors to develop their reading lists, discuss work in progress, and continue conversations begun in previous sessions.

Tutorials occur during the fall and spring semesters between residencies and allow for individual guidance as students navigate the literature of their genre and the creation of their own unique work. Students create three packets for mentor review, which include new or revised original work. In addition, packets include annotations from the student's reading list and a short reflection paper exploring common themes encountered across the semester. The final tutorial of a student's program will be dedicated to the completion of a manuscript-length thesis of original creative work and a critical introduction of the manuscript as it relates to literary traditions.

Students apply into one of four genre-based tracks: Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, and Spiritual Writing. New students are accepted at every residency, but the number of students allowed into each track is capped.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 90 quarter-graded or 60 semester-graded postsecondary credits

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will articulate their understanding of the relationship(s) among faith, spiritual practice, and art.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships within literary history, literary theory, and the craft of creative writing.
3. Students will articulate the essential function of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the development of literary histories and how that might pertain to their own creative work.
4. Students will apply the practices that produce effective creative writing, such as drafting, researching, revising, and preparing for publication.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and craft elements for the student's genre(s) of focus.

MFA in Creative Writing (44)

Art and Faith Seminar		10
EL 610	Art and Faith Seminar	
Track Workshops: Students must complete all credits within one genre		5
EL 621	Poetry Workshop	
EL 622	Fiction Workshop	
EL 623	Creative Nonfiction Workshop	
EL 624	Spiritual Writing Workshop	
Craft Seminar		5
EL 630	Craft Seminar	
Track Tutorial: Students must complete 16 credits in one genre		16
EL 641	Poetry Tutorial	
EL 642	Fiction Tutorial	

EL 643	Creative Nonfiction Tutorial	
EL 644	Spiritual Writing Tutorial	
The Writing Life		8
EL 650	The Writing Life	

Courses

EL 610 Art and Faith Seminar 2

Prior to each residency, students will be informed of two or three substantive texts that will serve as Common Readings for each residency's Art & Faith Seminar. As the title indicates, these texts are selected for their ability to serve as exemplars of the generative relationship (however troubled, challenging, or affirming) between a life of faith and a life of significant literary production. Students will be expected to include each of these texts on their overall program Reading List, and will choose at least one for inclusion in the work of the Writing Tutorials (i.e. in annotation assignments, short essay assignments, or final essay assignment.)

EL 621 Poetry Workshop 1

The residency workshop consists of small classes in which students engage in and receive peer critique, guided by one or more faculty members. Offered during January and Summer residencies. Repeatable.

EL 622 Fiction Workshop 1

The residency workshop consists of small classes in which students engage in and receive peer critique, guided by one or more faculty members. Offered during January and Summer residencies. Repeatable.

EL 623 Creative Nonfiction Workshop 1

The residency workshop consists of small classes in which students engage in and receive peer critique, guided by one or more faculty members. Offered during January and Summer residencies. Repeatable.

EL 624 Spiritual Writing Workshop 1

The residency workshop consists of small classes in which students engage in and receive peer critique, guided by one or more faculty members. Offered during January and Summer residencies. Repeatable.

EL 630 Craft Seminar 1

Craft seminars focus on craft issues that occur in and among the various genres: fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and spiritual writing. Students attend, discuss and reflect on the craft talks and genre readings are offered by visiting writers during the residencies. Offered during January and Summer residencies. Repeatable.

EL 641 Poetry Tutorial 4

Students work with a mentor to produce three to four packets of material: new or revised parts of their creative project and short critical responses (annotations) to each of the literary readings they have selected for their reading list. They also produce a short, critical essay. Students must complete all 16 credits in one genre. Can be taken once per semester. Repeatable.

EL 642 Fiction Tutorial 4

Students work with a mentor to produce three to four packets of material: new or revised parts of their creative project and short critical responses (annotations) to each of the literary readings they have selected for their reading list. They also produce a short, critical essay. Students must complete all 16 credits in one genre. Can be taken once per semester. Repeatable.

EL 643 Creative Nonfiction Tutorial 4

Students work with a mentor to produce three to four packets of material: new or revised parts of their creative project and short critical responses (annotations) to each of the literary readings they have selected for their reading list. They also produce a short, critical essay. Students must complete all 16 credits in one genre. Can be taken once per semester. Repeatable.

EL 644 Spiritual Writing Tutorial**4**

Students work with a mentor to produce three to four packets of material: new or revised parts of their creative project and short critical responses (annotations) to each of the literary readings they have selected for their reading list. They also produce a short, critical essay. Students must complete all 16 credits in one genre. Can be taken once per semester. Repeatable.

EL 650 The Writing Life**2**

During each tutorial semester, students work also with an additional mentor who will confer with them regarding approaches to enhance their practice of writing as vocation, attending to such matters as professionalization, preparing for publication, and deepening one's creative practice through continued literary study, translation, collaboration, and experimentation. Can be taken once per semester. Repeatable.