Creative Writing

Heather Russell, Associate Professor and 
Chairperson, English
Les Standiford, Professor and Director, Creative 
Writing
Lynne Barrett, Professor
Debra Dean, Associate Professor
John Dufresne, Professor
Denise Duhamel, Professor
Campbell McGrath, Professor
Julie Wade, Assistant Professor

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is the terminal 
degree for the practicing writer, designed to qualify the 
recipient to teach creative writing on the collegiate and 
university level. The program is housed at the Biscayne 
Bay Campus. Writers enjoy the opportunity for editorial 
experience with Gulf Stream magazine, the annual FIU 
literary awards competition, the annual FIU Writers 
Workshop, the Miami Book Fair, and the Writers on the 
Bay Series, which has included residencies by such 
writers as Richard Ford, Robert Pinsky, Isabel Allende, 
Tim O’Brien, John Wideman, Michael Ondaatje, Pat 
Conroy, Luisa Valenzuela, Scott Turow, and Amy Tan. 
Such major writers as Maxine Kumin, James Jones, Pete 
Hamill and George Garrett have served on the regular 
faculty.

Admission Requirement

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree with a 3.0 
GPA, must submit official GRE scores, and must have 
completed a minimum of nine semester hours of 
undergraduate work in creative writing. However, 
admission is based primarily on the strength of the 
applicant’s submitted writing sample. Deadline is the 
second Wednesday in January.

Degree Requirement

Forty eight semester hours are required in 
studio/academic curriculum, with a minimum in each area 
as follows:

- Literature 15
- Writing Workshop (both poetry and fiction required) 18
- Form and Theory 3
- Thesis 6

There is no foreign language requirement. Graduate 
workshops include short fiction, the novel, memoir, 
screenwriting, creative non-fiction, and poetry. The 
program places emphasis on the preparation and 
completion of a book-length creative thesis of publishable 
quality. Candidates must pass a final 
defense/examination.

Fellowships, teaching assistantships, and tuition 
remission scholarships are available on a competitive 
basis.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes
CRW-Creative Writing; ENG-English.

CRW 5130 Advanced Fiction Workshop (3). Practice in 
the techniques and analysis of fiction through the reading, 
discussion, and revision of student manuscripts in a 
workshop setting. May be repeated. Prerequisite: 9 hours 
undergraduate CRW course work.

CRW 5331 Advanced Poetry Workshop (3). Practice in 
the techniques and analysis of poetry through the reading, 
discussion, and revision of student manuscripts in a 
workshop setting. May be repeated. Prerequisite: 9 hours 
undergraduate CRW course work.

CRW 5620 Advanced Screenwriting Workshop (3). 
Practice in the techniques and analysis of screen-writing 
through the reading, discussion, and revision of student 
manuscripts in a workshop setting. May be repeated. 
Prerequisite: 9 hours undergraduate CRW course work.

CRW 5934 Special Topics in Creative Writing (1-5). A 
course designed to give students an opportunity to pursue 
special studies in aspects of creative writing not otherwise 
offered. May be repeated. Prerequisites: CRW 2001 and 
three hours of CRW on the 3000/4000 level.

CRW 5935 Special Topics in Creative Writing (1-5). 
Gives students an opportunity to pursue special studies in 
aspects of creative writing not otherwise offered. May be 
repeated. Prerequisites: CRW 2001 and three hours of 
CRW on the 3000/4000 level.

CRW 6971 Creative Writing Thesis (3). Research and 
writing for the creative writing thesis. May be repeated. 
Prerequisite: 12 hours graduate CRW course work.

CRW 6972 Creative Thesis Continuance (1). Further 
guidance and direction for creative writing MFA candidates 
who have completed the two semester intensive sequence 
in CRW 6971. May be repeated.

ENG 5058 Form and Theory of Contemporary 
Literature (3). Various approaches and theories of 
practice in the major genres of imaginative writing, 
including development and articulation of the creative 
aesthetic. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of 
the instructor.