Department Mission

The M.F.A. program in creative writing strives to provide students with the skills to demonstrate graduate-level knowledge of literature and theory and to function as advanced practitioners of their genre. Students will also display the ways in which facility with the elements of craft in their area of concentration, as learned in graduate workshops, along with a mature understanding of writerly process and discipline, have shaped their development as artists.

Concentrations Offered

» Fiction
» Poetry

Students can also take course work in creative nonfiction, though it is not an official concentration.

The Texas State M.F.A. program helped shape the writer I am today. I worked with a faculty of amazing writers and insightful mentors, and I found a community of creatives that has lasted long past graduation. I’m forever grateful for my years at Texas State.

– Owen Egerton, M.F.A. ’05,
Screenwriter and Novelist

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The program gives talented authors the opportunity to develop their craft in a formal academic program and a community of writers.

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gradcollege.txstate.edu
Why choose Texas State?
The M.F.A. program offers students access to incredible resources, including readings and master classes given by acclaimed visiting writers, agent and editor talks, and facilities like the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center in Kyle and the Clark House in Smithville. Each year, two graduates of the program hold residencies in these literary landmarks.

Recent graduates have won a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford, an AWP prize for Best Novel, and an honorable mention for the PEN/Faulkner Award.

Course Work
The master of fine arts degree in creative writing requires 48 semester hours, including:
- 12 hours of writing workshops
- 15 hours of literature
- three hours of form and theory
- three hours of literary techniques
- nine hours of minor or cognate (other than creative writing)
- six hours of thesis credit leading to the production of a book-length work of literary merit

Students may take literature courses in either poetry or fiction, but workshop classes are limited to students who are studying that particular genre. Students may also receive course credit for work on Front Porch, the program’s literary journal.

Faculty
In addition to permanent faculty, an endowed chair faculty position in creative writing brings distinguished writers to Texas State each year to teach graduate writing workshops and deliver public lectures. Endowed chairs have included National Book Award winner Tim O’Brien, Pulitzer Prize finalist Karen Russell, National Book Critics Circle Award winner Ben Fountain, Whiting Writers’ Award winner Cristina García, National Book Award winner Denis Johnson, and National Book Award winner Robert Stone.

Career Options
The master of fine arts is considered a terminal degree, which means that graduates can teach at a university level. Many graduates are working practitioners of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and screenplays and also possess highly-developed writing skills that are valuable in a wide variety of work environments. Graduates of the Texas State program are competitive with literature doctoral students.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Fall: January 15
Spring: November 1
Summer: No admission

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
For scholarship, fellowship or assistantship information, review our web page: gradcollege.txstate.edu/funding

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/intl_home

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/creative_writing