M.A. in Writing

The Master of Arts in Writing degree program provides students with a foundation in rhetoric, research, and the evolution of the English language. Students develop expertise in a variety of professional and creative writing genres and have the opportunity to study teaching writing. Students can go on to careers in writing, publishing, and education; work as professional writers for magazines, newspapers, and businesses; and pursue a variety of Ph.D. programs of study.

Why Pursue an M.A. in Writing?

- to master the art of written communication by practicing creative and professional genres
- to learn about the history of language and language change
- to practice strategies for the teaching of writing
- to gain experience in diverse creative genres in a workshop environment
- to analyze writing and other cultural texts using rhetorical methods
- to learn the research conventions of writing-related fields
- to gain exposure to elements of technical writing and document design

Thinking Ahead

Graduates of this program can pursue doctoral education in a writing-related field or become leaders in a variety of professional positions, including:

- blogger
- college-level writing instructor
- columnist
- copy editor
- magazine/journal editor
- screenwriter
- technical writer
Overview

Writing classes are held on NSU’s main campus in a seminar format that promotes educational growth in a supportive environment.

Small classes maximize learning opportunities. Students receive individual attention and mentoring from their professors, who provide detailed, directed support for research activities and thesis development.

College faculty members have a wide variety of professional backgrounds and research expertise.

Students are encouraged to share their work and develop professional contacts at local and regional conferences.

Guest lecturers, visiting writers, and faculty members share their expertise in the Distinguished Speakers Series, the Faculty Lecture Series, and the Faculty Symposium.

The Performing and Visual Arts Wing in the Don Taft University Center provides an outstanding home for the performing and visual arts in South Florida.

The program is offered during the evenings on the main campus only.

2014–2015 Curriculum

Program Requirements (30 credits)

Core Courses (9 credits)

- WRIT 5010  Research Methods (3 credits)
- WRIT 5200  Grammar and History of the English Language (3 credits)
- HUMN 5000  History and Theory of Rhetoric (3 credits)

Elective Courses (15 credits)

Select 15 credits from the following courses:

- WRIT 5000  Professional and Public Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5020  Poetry Writing Workshop (3 credits)
- WRIT 5030  Fiction Writing Workshop (3 credits)
- WRIT 5040  Screenwriting Workshop (3 credits)
- WRIT 5050  Autobiography and Memoir Workshop (3 credits)
- WRIT 5060  Writing Literary Nonfiction (3 credits)
- WRIT 5100  Teaching Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5400  Technical Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5550  Feature Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5600  Science and Nature Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5700  Travel Writing (3 credits)
- WRIT 5800  Editing, Layout, and Design (3 credits)

Thesis (6 credits)

- WRIT 6000  Master’s Thesis (3 credits, repeatable)

The successful M.A. in Writing graduate is expected to

- write in multiple genres for diverse audiences using professional-level conventions
- create texts employing professional-level rhetorical strategies
- conduct professional-level research
- produce a master’s degree thesis of publishable quality

This publication should not be viewed as a substitution for official program requirements and outcomes. Students are responsible for meeting curriculum and program requirements in the Graduate Student Catalog in effect when the student enters the program.
Learn Beyond the Classroom

• Become a writing tutor at the Office of Academic Services.
• Become a writing fellow for the undergraduate writing program.
• Participate in internships with local organizations. Our interns have worked for The Miami Herald and Gulfstream Media Group, a publisher of South Florida lifestyle and interior design magazines. Others have received independent editing, tutoring, and teaching opportunities.
• Gain experience as an editorial/copywriting graduate assistant or student worker on NSU’s campus.
• Attend exclusive on-campus workshops, lectures, and meet-and-greets with local and national writers, editors, freelancers, and faculty members from diverse genres and fields.
• Hear internationally acclaimed novelists, journalists, filmmakers, and other speakers of interest lecture on campus through the college’s Distinguished Speakers Series.

Publish Your Writing

• Quadrivium: a multidisciplinary scholarship journal for faculty members and graduate students at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
• The Farquhar Forum: the magazine of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences
• The Current: NSU’s student-run newspaper
• Wellness Made Simple magazine: NSU’s health and wellness publication
• M.A. in Writing faculty members regularly share opportunities for students to submit their work to outside journals, magazines, and writing contests.
Admissions

Applicants to the M.A. in Writing program are considered in terms of their potential for success in the program.

Required Application Materials Include

- completed online application for the M.A. in Writing program
- a nonrefundable, $50 application fee
- final official undergraduate transcripts including degree conferral (Applicants who have not yet completed their undergraduate degree programs may submit official transcripts prior to degree conferral to be considered for provisional admission to the M.A. in Writing program. Final official transcripts must be submitted to receive full admission into the program.)
- official GRE scores
- three letters of recommendation (from professors, colleagues, and/or those who can speak on behalf of the applicant’s potential for success in the program)
- a writing portfolio: 20–25 pages of original pieces of writing; may include academic papers, professional work-related writing, creative writing, and nonfiction prose
- a personal statement (approximately 500 words) detailing the ways in which the M.A. in Writing program may help the applicant achieve his or her goals

Preferred Admission Qualifications Include

- undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- GRE verbal and quantitative combined score of 300 or higher
- writing portfolio that showcases the applicant’s abilities in producing academic papers, professional work-related writing, creative writing, and/or nonfiction prose

Application Deadlines

Winter Semester (begins in January): October 15
Fall Semester (begins in August): June 1

For More Information

www.fcas.nova.edu/go/graduate

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