

MFA@FLA REQUIREMENTS

The MFA takes three years to complete, and requires 54 credit hours of the following:

- 4 workshops in genre (fiction or poetry)
- 3 seminars
- 1 forms course
- 1 reading tutorial
- 3 electives 9-18 research/thesis hours
- the thesis

Each of the courses above carries 3 credit hours.

Workshop: Students are required to take one workshop in their genre of specialization each spring and fall semester during the first two years of the program: either poetry (CRW 6331) or fiction (CRW 6130). As electives, you may take up to two more workshops, with the permission of the instructor and the Graduate Coordinator, if space permits. Keep the Director of Creative Writing informed of your intentions with regard to workshops.

Seminar: This is any English Department graduate-level course, excluding CRW courses and independent studies (ENG 6906). All graduate seminars offered by the English Department are open to MFA students; there are no prerequisites or special requirements. It is, however, recommended that in selecting these courses you carefully consult the course descriptions available on the Graduate Studies website to choose courses that are suitable for your interests, needs, and preparation. Help in selecting courses is available from the Graduate Coordinator, the Director of Creative Writing, the creative-writing faculty, and other MFA students. Questions about a particular course's subject matter or suitability given your academic preparation may be addressed to the professor conducting the course. (Teaching assistants who have not taken a course in writing pedagogy may be required to take LAE 6947 as their first seminar. Instructions in this regard will issue from the Grad Coordinator's office.)

Forms course: These are courses that approach fiction and poetry from a craft perspective, taught by members of the creative-writing faculty. Students are required to take one forms course for the degree, in the genre of specialization, and may take a second as an elective. The second forms course may be in genre of specialization or out, with permission of instructor and Grad Coordinator, space permitting.

Reading tutorial: The reading tutorial (CRW 6906) is individually arranged between a student and a faculty member in the English Department. The tutorial is intended to expose students to areas they may not get in course work. The course is to be a short list of books to be read, generally six to ten, in a period, genre, author, or subject. At semester's end, the student and professor hold a brief (perhaps hour-long) informal discussion of these texts. The course should not be onerous. It is a low-load reading course with no writing required. Students take only one reading tutorial.

It is up to the student and the faculty member to work out a specific arrangement for the work required. To take a tutorial, students need to get a tutorial form (available in Turlington 4012), fill it out with the faculty member, and return it to the Graduate Coordinator's office.

Elective: This category includes English Department graduate seminars, CRW courses excepting the reading tutorial and the four required workshops, and independent studies (ENG 6906). MFA students may also take courses for elective credit outside the department, with the permission of the

Graduate Coordinator.

Thesis: The thesis is, at minimum, 125 pages of fiction or 30-36 poems.

Thesis Hours: The MFA requires 9-18 research/thesis hours, including 3 in ENG 6910 (Supervised Research) and a minimum of 6 in ENG 6971 (Master's Research). Students may take up to another 9 hours of ENG 6971, or may take additional seminars, electives, forms courses, independent studies, or workshops outside their genre. (Students considering doctoral work will likely want to take additional seminars.) Students register for thesis hours whenever convenient, but they must register for three hours of ENG 6971 in the semester in which they intend to graduate. Students who fail to do so will be required to pay for ENG 6971 hours at extra cost.

A possible sequence of course work for the MFA is as follows:

First Year			Second Year			Third Year	
Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Workshop	Workshop		Workshop	Workshop		Seminar	R. Tutorial
Seminar	Elective		Seminar	Elective		Thesis	Thesis
Elective	Forms Course		Thesis	Thesis		Thesis	Thesis

Credit hours

How many credit hours to take in a given semester is governed by several factors. Here are the rules and some tips to help you plan your course of study:

These are the basic rules regarding credit hours:

- The MFA degree requires a total of 54 credit hours.
- Teaching assistants need to register for a minimum of 9 credit hours per spring/fall semester, and 3 credits per summer semester when teaching during the summer. Your tuition waiver pays the tuition on 9 credit hours worth of tuition during fall/spring and 3 credit hours during summer. Students pay fees on the order of \$42.00 per credit hour. Starting in 2009 these fees will be deducted from the student's paycheck.
- If you are not teaching or receiving a full fellowship, you will need to register for a minimum of 9 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters. You will also need to pay for all 9 hours.
- All TAs immediately receive in-state tuition rates. Even so, your fellowship or teaching assistantship requires that you become a resident of the State of Florida. All out-of-state students must immediately begin the process to establish Florida residency.

Guidelines for Satisfactory Progress toward the MFA

Teaching Assistantships are awarded competitively, and are granted and renewed with the stipulation that the recipient "maintain satisfactory performance as a student and as an instructor." Current departmental policy is to provide support for MFA students for three years.

By the end of the spring semester of the third academic year, the MFA student should have

completed the 54 credit hours required for the MFA degree.

Satisfactory progress is defined as follows: *By the end of the first academic year (two semesters), you must have completed four graded courses (12 credit hours), exclusive of reading tutorials (CRW 6906). The four courses include two workshops, and all courses must satisfy degree requirements. You must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5.*

All students are subject to an annual review of their progress late in the spring semester. If your GPA is below 3.5 at this time, your appointment may not be renewed. Normally students who have raised their GPA above 3.5 by the end of the spring semester will receive a teaching assistantship for their second year.

If your GPA falls below 3.0, the Graduate School will not process your fee waiver for the following semester and will not approve reappointment for the following year. If the low GPA can be raised by finishing an Incomplete, you may be able to clear the Incomplete before it affects your status. If at any point you expect to have problems with grades, please see the Graduate Coordinator to discuss your options.

A grade of I (Incomplete) is calculated as an "E" (that is, as a 0.0 grade) if it is not converted to another grade within one semester of its assignment. In other words, for every course you fail to finish in the fall, you will have the equivalent of an "E" factored into your GPA by the end of the following spring term; for every course you fail to finish in the spring, you will have an "E" calculated into your grade by the end of summer. It is therefore crucial that you do the work to remove an "I" grade as expeditiously as possible.

Summer Teaching

MFA students who are receiving teaching assistantships and who are making satisfactory progress may receive summer teaching assignments during the summers after the first and second years. But “priority has shifted to international students and to MAs and PhDs who need [to teach] in the summer to fulfill requirements” (from Graduate Coordinator, April 7, 2009).

MFA students should finish the degree by the end of the third spring semester. If you need more time to finish your degree, you can enroll for credit during a third summer, but you probably will not be offered a teaching assistantship. It is therefore important to make sure you finish your degree within the expected three years, since your teaching assistantship will likely not extend beyond the spring of your third year.

Advising

In your first year, your advisors are the Director of Creative Writing and the Graduate Coordinator. In the fall of your third year, if not earlier, you should establish an **MFA thesis committee**, consisting of a director and two committee members, selected in consultation with your director. To officially establish your committee, you will then need to report to Kathy Williams the names of the faculty members who will form your committee. Once you have established a committee, your director will advise you on your thesis work.