

# Stonecoast Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

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The Stonecoast low-residency M.F.A. program in creative writing draws on a faculty of nationally known writers of creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and popular fiction from across the United States. The M.F.A. is a two-year program, alternating intensive 10-day residencies with six-month independent writing projects supervised by faculty writers/mentors. The M.F.A. offers an interdisciplinary curriculum, including creative nonfiction, novel, poetry, popular fiction, and short story, with possibilities for elective work in such areas as writing for stage and screen, performance, and writing for young adults.

Low-residency programs give students significant flexibility in pursuing graduate work as they do not require a day-to-day presence on campus. The master of fine arts requires attendance at two 10-day residencies per year for two years. These residencies are considered the beginning of each semester. Residencies are staffed by visiting faculty writers of national reputation who meet with students for a series of workshops, seminars, conferences, and readings. The winter residency will be held in January and the summer residency in June.

The Stonecoast M.F.A. also requires students to complete four semesters of intensive long-distance work with a faculty mentor/writer. Each semester following the residency, at prearranged intervals, students send packets of creative writing and critical essays to their mentors by mail or e-mail. Faculty respond with extensive, in-depth critiques of the student work.

Students complete a third-semester project in one of six emphases (craft, creative collaboration, publishing, social action, teaching, and theory) and write a creative thesis in their third and fourth semesters. Students must also attend a final graduation residency at which they give a reading of their work and participate in a panel or teach a class. Occasionally, leaves of absence will be approved for a maximum of two semesters.

Admission is highly selective; students will be accepted on the basis of manuscript samples and past educational experience in creative writing. Applications for the two annual admissions cycles are due on September 1 and February 1. Later applications may be considered in exceptional cases or until all places are filled.

The cost of the brief-residency graduate writing program is \$4,990 per semester (not including room and board). There are openings in the program for commuter students. The fee structure for this long-distance learning program is separate from the usual USM graduate tuition. The M.F.A. does not charge a higher rate for out-of-state students. Some scholarships are available.

For further information, contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at (207) 780-4386 or [gradstudies@usm.maine.edu](mailto:gradstudies@usm.maine.edu), or the Stonecoast M.F.A. office at (207) 780-5262.

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*Each student must complete four workshop residencies and four semester projects along with a fifth graduation residency.*

## **CRW 501 Residency Course I**

An advanced workshop that focuses on the development of the student's writing through the use of faculty-guided workshops and topical seminars, round tables, panels, and readings, and discussion of major traditional and contemporary work in the genre. Workshop tracks include poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or popular fiction. Students are expected to submit an "in-progress" manuscript in advance of the residency. The manuscript(s) submitted will be analyzed during the faculty-guided workshops. Cr 6.

## **CRW 510 Poetry Semester Project I**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows

the first residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will then respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 501. Cr 9.

## **CRW 520 Fiction Semester Project I**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the first residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of

manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will then respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 501. Cr 9.

### **CRW 530 Creative Nonfiction Semester Project I**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the first residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 501. Cr 9.

### **CRW 540 Popular Fiction Semester Project I**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the first residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 501. Cr 9.

### **CRW 502 Residency Course II**

This course is considered to be the completion of the first year's residency requirements. See description of Workshop Residency I. Prerequisites: CRW 501 and completion of Semester Project I in student's chosen genre. Cr 3-6.

### **CRW 512 Poetry Semester Project II**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the second residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 502. Cr 9.

### **CRW 522 Fiction Semester Project II**

This course immediately follows the second residency. The course focus is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of

manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 502. Cr 9.

### **CRW 532 Creative Nonfiction Semester Project II**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the second residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 502. Cr 9.

### **CRW 542 Popular Fiction Semester Project II**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the second residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. As part of the study plan, students will be expected to exchange five packets of manuscripts with the faculty mentor. The packets will vary depending on the study track, but should include both creative work and critical annotations of readings. The faculty mentor will respond with constructive critiques for revision as well as additional reading suggestions and relevant observations on craft and theory. Prerequisite: CRW 502. Cr 9.

### **CRW 601 Residency Course III**

This course is considered to be the first half of the second year's program. See description of Workshop Residency I. Prerequisite: CRW 502 and completion of Semester Project II in the student's chosen genre. Cr 3-6.

### **CRW 610 Poetry Semester Project III**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the third residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student undertakes a special project under the guidance of the mentor in one of five concentrations: craft, literary theory, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, publishing, or literacy/community services. Prerequisite: CRW 601. Cr 9.

### **CRW 620 Fiction Semester Project III**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the third residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student undertakes a special project under the guidance of the mentor in one of five concentrations: craft, literary theory, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, publishing, or literacy/community services. Prerequisite: CRW 601. Cr 9.

**CRW 630 Creative Nonfiction Semester Project III**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the third residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student undertakes a special project under the guidance of the mentor in one of five concentrations: craft, literary theory, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, publishing, or literacy/community services. Prerequisite: CRW 601. Cr 9.

**CRW 640 Popular Fiction Semester Project III**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the third residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student undertakes a special project under the guidance of the mentor in one of five concentrations: craft, literary theory, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, publishing, or literacy/community services. Prerequisite: CRW 601. Cr 9.

**CRW 602 Residency Course IV**

This course is considered to be the second half of the second year's program. See description of Workshop Residency I. Prerequisite: CRW 601 and completion of Semester Project III in the student's chosen genre. Cr 3-6.

**CRW 612 Poetry Semester Project IV**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the fourth residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student completes a book-length creative thesis, and prepares for the student reading and for the teaching of a seminar or panel presentation during the fifth and final graduation residency. Prerequisite: CRW 602. Cr 9.

**CRW 622 Fiction Semester Project IV**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the fourth residency, is on the completion of a

negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student completes a book-length creative thesis, and prepares for the student reading and for the teaching of a seminar or panel presentation during the fifth and final graduation residency. Prerequisite: CRW 602. Cr 9.

**CRW 632 Creative Nonfiction Semester Project IV**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the fourth residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student completes a book-length creative thesis, and prepares for the student reading and for the teaching of a seminar or panel presentation during the fifth and final graduation residency. Prerequisite: CRW 602. Cr 9.

**CRW 642 Popular Fiction Semester Project IV**

The focus of this course, which immediately follows the fourth residency, is on the completion of a negotiated study plan developed between the student and the faculty member. Each student completes a book-length creative thesis, and prepares for the student reading and for the teaching of a seminar or panel presentation during the fifth and final graduation residency. Prerequisite: CRW 602. Cr 9.

**CRW 603 Graduation Residency**

This residency is the culmination of the M.F.A. in creative writing degree program. Prior to the residency, a student must have submitted a creative thesis deemed by a faculty committee to be of publishable quality. At the residency, the student must lead a presentation or participate in a panel on an issue of craft, theory, publishing, teaching/pedagogy, interdisciplinary artistic collaboration, or literacy/community services. The student must also give a public reading from the creative thesis. Prerequisite: completion of Semester Project IV in the student's chosen genre. Cr 0.