

Departments

Department of English

Mission

The Department of English empowers writers to discover and refine their unique voices through creative inquiry, critical reflection, and the transformative power of language. Guided by the Dominican tradition of the search for truth, the department prepares students to craft meaningful stories, engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives, and contribute to the literary and cultural conversations that shape our communities and world.

About the Department

The Department of English prepares graduate students to transform ideas into publishable works through intensive study, individualized mentorship, and a vibrant community of writers. Centered on the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, the department supports students from diverse backgrounds who seek to complete a book-length manuscript while developing the craft, discipline, and professional skills needed for a lifelong writing practice.

Working closely with accomplished faculty mentors and fellow writers, students deepen their understanding of the creative process, explore literary traditions and contemporary publishing, and learn to thoughtfully revise and refine their work. In an era increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence and rapidly evolving technologies, the department affirms the enduring value of authentic human creativity, storytelling, and artistic expression. Graduates leave with a completed manuscript, a professional portfolio, and the confidence to share stories that reflect individual experience while speaking to broader human truths.

Graduate Program

[Master of Fine Arts in Writing](#)

Professional Engagement

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing aligns with the educational principles and best practices of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). While AWP is not an accrediting body, its nationally recognized standards inform the program's commitment to creative excellence, professional development, mentorship, and the preparation of writers for meaningful careers in the literary arts.

Experiential Learning

The Master of Fine Arts emphasizes learning through the practice of writing. Students work closely with faculty mentors to develop, revise, and complete a book-length manuscript while participating in writing workshops, peer critiques, and individualized mentoring throughout the program. Professional development opportunities include exploring publishing trends, preparing submission materials, and developing the skills

needed to navigate today's literary landscape. By graduation, students have completed a substantial creative work and joined a collaborative community of writers that extends beyond the classroom.

Department Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of a graduate degree in the department, students will:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the conventions, techniques, and craft of creative writing within a chosen genre.
- Apply an informed understanding of the creative process to develop, revise, and refine original works.
- Evaluate contemporary publishing practices and market trends relevant to professional writing.
- Develop effective project proposals, synopses, and submission materials that align with industry standards and expectations.
- Demonstrate highly developed written communication and creative expression.
- Plan, complete, and present a sustained, book-length creative project that reflects artistic vision, critical reflection, and professional standards.