

# WRITING, MASTER OF ARTS

## MA in Writing (<https://advanced.jhu.edu/academics/graduate/ma-writing/>)

The MA in Writing program offers students the option of a fiction concentration, a nonfiction concentration, or a dual-concentration track to study the practice of writing in a series of workshops and reading courses. Students on the fiction track work on short stories, novellas, or novels. Students on the nonfiction track pursue long-form, literary journalism or personal essays, and memoir. Students opting for a dual concentration take classes and gain proficiency in both genres.

Students in the MA in Writing program learn primarily through the practice of writing and the study of reading with a focus on craft. Depending on student goals, the program offers a broad foundation in fine arts/creative writing, in journalism, or in both fields. Some students cultivate skills to prepare for a career; others are seasoned writers who want to change focus; still others favor artistic exploration over professional ambition. Within the realm of literary writing, students have the flexibility to develop individual styles and pursue specialized subjects. The program's goal is to create a nurturing yet demanding environment where writers work toward publication at the highest artistic and professional levels.

## Admissions Criteria for All Advanced Academic Programs (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/advanced-academic-programs/Admission/#admissionrequirementstext>)

### PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the materials and credentials required for all programs, the Master of Arts in Writing requires:

- **Two Letters of Recommendation**
- **Statement of Purpose:** Please provide a statement, up to one page in length, describing your personal background and/or a part of your life experience that has shaped you or your goals. Feel free to elaborate on personal challenges and opportunities that have influenced your decision to pursue a graduate degree at Johns Hopkins.
- **Writing Samples:** The samples should be up to 15 typewritten, double-spaced pages, or about 3,500 to 4,500 words, in the concentration of interest. Samples do NOT have to be a single, lengthy piece of writing.

The program's admissions committees offer the following additional suggestions for writing samples for each concentration:

**Fiction:** Short stories or novel chapters in prose fiction, demonstrating literary content or themes. Any style, vision, or approach is permitted—traditional, experimental, hybrid, etc.

**Nonfiction:** Up to five separate works of prose nonfiction about any subject. Any nonfiction form or combination of forms, including feature article, commentary/blogs, memoir, travel, essay, profile, biography, book chapters and creative nonfiction, is permitted. Academic assignments, term papers, government reports, or scholarly criticism are not acceptable nonfiction writing samples.

### Dual-Concentration Applicants

Applicants may seek formal degree candidacy in both fiction and nonfiction by submitting full writing samples in each proposed area. Such applicants should explain their multiple interests and reading in a single statement of purpose. The program makes individual admission decisions for each concentration in a dual-concentration application. Dual-concentration students must complete three more courses than the 10 required for a single-concentration degree.

## Program Requirements

Students in the fiction or nonfiction concentration must complete 10 courses:

- Two required core courses
- One required concentration core course
- Three customizable core courses from the declared concentration
- Electives to ensure the 10-course requirement is met

Students in the dual concentration must complete 13 courses:

- Two required core courses
- Two required concentration core courses
- Three customizable core courses in fiction
- Three customizable core courses in nonfiction
- Three electives

## COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses - Required:</b>		<b>6</b>
AS.490.652	Contemporary American Writers	
AS.490.801	Thesis And Publication	
<b>Fiction Concentration: Core Course - Required</b>		
AS.490.654	Fiction Techniques	3
<i>Concentration Core Courses - Customizable</i>		
Select three of the following:		
AS.490.657	Speculative Fiction Workshop: Writing New Realities	3
AS.490.890	Humor Writing Workshop	3
AS.490.660	Fiction Workshop	3
AS.490.661	Fiction Workshop	3
AS.490.662	Fiction Workshop	3
AS.490.669	Combined Workshop in Nonfiction and Fiction	3
AS.490.701	Advanced Workshop	3
AS.490.765	Children's and YA Writing Workshop	3
AS.490.809	Independent Study	3
AS.490.800	Independent Study in Writing	3
AS.490.803	Independent Study	3
<b>Nonfiction Concentration: Core Courses - Required</b>		
AS.490.656	Nonfiction Techniques	3
<i>Concentration Core Courses - Customizable</i>		
Select three of the following:		
AS.490.670	Nonfiction Workshop	3
AS.490.671	Nonfiction Workshop	3
AS.490.669	Combined Workshop in Nonfiction and Fiction	3
AS.490.690	Travel Writing Workshop	3
AS.490.693	Writing Memoir & Personal Essay Workshop	3

AS.490.890	Humor Writing Workshop	3
AS.491.755	Science Personal Essay and Memoir Workshop	4
AS.491.673	Science and Medical Writing Workshop	4
AS.491.674	Science and Medical Writing Workshop	4
AS.491.675	Science and Medical Writing Workshop	4
AS.490.765	Children's and YA Writing Workshop	3
AS.490.800	Independent Study in Writing	3
AS.490.809	Independent Study	3
AS.490.803	Independent Study	3

**Electives**

Select to ensure that the 10-course requirement is met:

AS.490.676	Sentence Power: From Craft to Art	3
AS.490.678	Novel Form, Style, & Structure	3
AS.490.686	Writing Identity: Race and Ethnicity in Fiction and Nonfiction	3
AS.490.684	Heritage of Literature—Examining the 20th Century	3
AS.490.685	Writing the Body	3
AS.490.663	Crafting the Past: Approaches to Historical Fiction	3
AS.490.734	Digital Storytelling and Multimedia Journalism	3
AS.490.773	Off-site Residency	3
AS.490.714	Essence of Place: Description, Detail, and Setting	3
AS.490.745	Voice in Fiction and Nonfiction	3
AS.490.747	Advanced Revision Techniques in Fiction	3
AS.490.766	Constructing the Novel	3
AS.490.767	Writing the Nonfiction Book Proposal	3
AS.490.770	Writing the Other	3
AS.490.784	Online Residency: Powerful Prose, a Focus on Structure, Voice, and Style	3
AS.490.786	Online Residency: Finding the Drama in Memoir	3
AS.450.724	Science Fiction Film in the 20th Century	3
AS.450.620	Gender and Media	3
AS.450.699	Great Books in Great Contexts	3
AS.450.700	"The Souls of Black Folk": Evolving Conceptions of Leadership in African American Literature and Culture	3
AS.450.642	Yesterday's Tomorrows: Utopian and Dystopian Futures in Science Fiction Literature	3
AS.450.667	The Bildungsroman as Literary Form—Chronicling Personal Growth in Countries and Cultures	3
AS.491.702	The Funny Side of Science	4

**Optional**

AS.490.888	Thesis Continuation	
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