MA in Writing

writing.jhu.edu (https://advanced.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-degree-programs/writing/)

The MA in Writing Program offers students the option of a fiction or nonfiction concentration 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 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/enrollment-services/admission/)

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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

- Familiarity with writing in the applicant’s chosen concentration. Applicants to the Fiction concentration should have read in their area of interest and explored their writing voice. Applicants to the Nonfiction concentration should have read in their field. Some exposure to journalistic fundamentals is helpful but not necessary.
- 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 interest 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 two to four more courses than the 10 required for a single-concentration degree.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Ten 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

COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.652</td>
<td>Contemporary American Writers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.801</td>
<td>Thesis And Publication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fiction Concentration: Core Course - Required
  AS.490.654 | Fiction Techniques                          | 3       |
| Concentration Core Courses - Customizable
  Select three of the following:
  AS.490.660 | Fiction Workshop                           | 3       |
  AS.490.661 | Fiction Workshop                           | 3       |
  AS.490.662 | Fiction Workshop                           | 3       |
  AS.490.765 | Children's and YA Writing Workshop         | 3       |
  AS.490.668 | Combined Workshop and Readings in Nonfiction| 3       |
  AS.490.731 | Film & Screenwriting                       | 3       |
| Nonfiction Concentration: Core Courses - Required
  AS.490.656 | Nonfiction Techniques                      | 3       |
| Concentration Core Courses - Customizable
  Select three of the following:
  AS.490.670 | Nonfiction Workshop                        | 3       |
  AS.490.671 | Nonfiction Workshop                        | 3       |
  AS.490.672 | 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.491.673 | Science and Medical Writing Workshop       | 4       |
  AS.491.674 | Science-Medical Writing Workshop           | 4       |
  AS.491.675 | Science-Medical Writing Workshop           | 4       |
  AS.490.765 | Children's and YA Writing Workshop         | 3       |
  AS.490.731 | Film & Screenwriting                       | 3       |
| Electives
  Select electives to ensure you meet the 10 course requirement:
  AS.490.676 | Sentence Power: From Craft to Art          | 3       |
  AS.490.666 | Combined Workshop and Readings in Fiction and Nonfiction | 3 |
  AS.490.684 | Heritage of Literature—Examining the 20th Century | 3 |
  AS.490.685 | Writing the Body                           | 3       |
  AS.490.715 | Noticing as a Writer                       | 3       |
  AS.490.734 | Digital Storytelling and Multimedia Journalism| 3       |
  AS.490.748 | Advanced Workshop in the Novel             | 3       |
  AS.490.782 | Books and the City: Literary Dublin        | 3       |

COURSES

Ten Courses: Select electives to ensure you meet the 10 course requirement:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.785</td>
<td>Our American West: The Evolution of a Counter Narrative</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.665</td>
<td>Combined Workshop and Readings in Memoir</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.681</td>
<td>The Craft of Poetry. An Introduction for Fiction and Nonfiction Writers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.687</td>
<td>The Short Story: Past &amp; Present</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.702</td>
<td>Readings in Global Fact and Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.705</td>
<td>Crafting Nonfiction Voice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.711</td>
<td>Masterworks: Examining the Boundaries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.714</td>
<td>Essence of Place: Description, Detail, and Setting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.745</td>
<td>Voice in Fiction and Nonfiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.746</td>
<td>Readings in Narrative Fiction and Nonfiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.747</td>
<td>Advanced Revision Techniques in Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.766</td>
<td>Completing the Novel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.767</td>
<td>Writing the Nonfiction Book Proposal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.770</td>
<td>Writing the Other</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.784</td>
<td>Reading, Writing, Walking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS.490.805</td>
<td>Writing Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>