

Master of Fine Arts in Writing

MFA in Writing Application Guidelines

Materials to submit

- Application form.** Please type or print in ink.

- Creative manuscript.** Submit work in the genre you wish to study. Students in the MFA program must choose one primary genre. If you are not sure which genre to choose, you may submit work in two genres and let the Admissions Board decide for you.
 - Poetry: 10 pages (no more than one poem per page)
 - Fiction: Up to 4000 words maximum (double-spaced)
 - Nonfiction: Up to 4000 words maximum (double-spaced)

- Personal essay.** Maximum of three pages, addressing the following:
 - Your background in the study of creative writing and literature
 - Additional writing or workshop experience
 - Literary influences on your writing, including the titles of books in your genre by writers you feel have shaped your thinking (not including our MFA faculty)
 - How your schedule will accommodate devoting 20 to 25 hours per week to your writing and to the completion of program requirements
 - Reasons why a low-residency MFA program suits your level of experience and your goals for future development as a writer

- Critical analysis.** Submit a critical essay that explores some aspect or element of craft in a literary work in the genre you wish to study. We encourage you to choose texts and writers that exemplify the kinds of strategies you are attempting to master in your own work. Maximum of three pages.

- Two letters of reference.** Fill out the top portion of the reference letter form and send to your references. They should mail the completed form to the MFA office. References should be able to assess your qualifications for graduate study in writing. These can be from teachers, other writers, or professional associates. (References are not required for those applying for the Residency Writers Conference.)

- Transcripts.** Arrange for official, sealed transcripts of your undergraduate and/or graduate studies from the institutions where you earned degrees. Please have them sent directly to the MFA office. (Transcripts are not required for those applying for the Residency Writers Conference.)

- Application fee.** A non-refundable fee of \$50 (one genre) or \$75 (two genres) is required with your application materials. Please include a check payable to Pacific University, or call 503-

352-1531 to use your credit/debit card, or you may use the link on our application web page to make an electronic payment.

How and when to submit your application

Formatting: The manuscript, personal essay, and critical analysis must be typewritten in Times, 12 point, with page numbers and your name on each poem, story, essay, or chapter. With the exception of poetry manuscripts (which should be single-spaced, one poem per page), all pages should be doubled-spaced.

Deadlines: For priority consideration, submit all application materials by September 1st for the semester beginning in January or March 1st for the semester beginning in June. Applications received after these dates are welcome and will be considered as space allows.

Financial aid: Submit your FAFSA as early as possible. For more information, see the Costs, Scholarships and Financial Aid Information page.

To applicants who are reapplying: If you are reapplying to the Pacific MFA in Writing program within one year of your previous application, submit the following: 1) a new or revised manuscript, 2) a new or revised personal essay, 3) a new or revised critical analysis, 4) a new application form, and 5) the \$50 application fee for one genre or \$75 application fee for two genres. Updated references and transcripts are optional.

Summary of the application process

Applicant submits:

- Application form
- Manuscript
- Personal essay
- Critical analysis
- \$50 non-refundable fee for an application in one genre, or \$75 non-refundable fee for an application in two genres

Additional materials sent separately to the MFA office (not required for those applying for the Residency Writers Conference):

- Two letters of recommendation
- Official, sealed copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts

Email or mail all application materials to the MFA office at the contact information on the bottom of this page.



Master of Fine Arts in Writing

Application Form

Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

If you have ever had your name legally changed, what was your previous name?

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip code _____

Cell phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of birth: _____ Occupation: _____

Social Security #: _____ Sex: Female Male

Ethnicity (optional): Are you Hispanic or Latino? Yes No

Regardless of your prior answer, please select one or more of the following (optional): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian White

Citizenship (choose one): U.S. citizen Permanent U.S. resident Visa

I am applying as a degree candidate

I am applying for the Residency Writers Conference: no credit credit

I am reapplying to the MFA program

Genre Concentration (choose preference): Fiction Nonfiction Poetry

Entry term: January June Entry year: _____

Education: List all higher education institutions where you earned degrees (dates, degrees)

Other relevant information: writing workshops, conferences, awards, or publications

Signature _____ Date _____