

# Master of Fine Arts in Writing

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## 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.** Maximum of three pages exploring some aspect of or element of craft in a literary work.
  
- 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 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. (These are not required for those applying for the Residency Writers Conference.)
  
- Application fee.** A non-refundable fee of \$50.00 is required with your application materials if you are applying in one genre. A fee of \$75 is required if you are applying in two genres. Please include a check payable to Pacific University, or call 503-352-1531 to use your credit or debit card.

## 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. To save paper, we prefer you email your writing to the MFA office at [mfa@pacificu.edu](mailto:mfa@pacificu.edu). If you are mailing your materials, please send three copies of the manuscript, personal essay, and critical analysis.

**Deadlines:** For priority consideration, submit all application materials by September 1<sup>st</sup> for the semester beginning in January or March 1<sup>st</sup> for the semester beginning in June. Applications received after these dates will be considered as space allows and may be processed for the following semester.

**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 \$50.00 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 (3 copies if mailing)
- Personal essay (3 copies if mailing)
- Critical analysis (3 copies if mailing)
- \$50.00 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 address below.

To save paper, we prefer you email your creative manuscript, personal essay and critical analysis to the MFA office at [mfa@pacificu.edu](mailto:mfa@pacificu.edu).



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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 study or writing experience: workshops, conferences, classes

\_\_\_\_\_

Awards, honors, grants, publications (may use back page for additional information)

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_