Master of Fine Arts in Writing

http://www.pacificu.edu/as/mfa/

Pacific’s Master of Fine Arts in Writing program celebrates writing as an art that has the potential to make a difference in the world. With an emphasis on the creative process, award-winning writers work closely with students to support and inspire evolving craft and voice. In the belief that writers can and must lead full and interesting lives, the program embraces students who have full-time jobs and other obligations. The low-residency format allows students to earn a graduate degree over the course of two years through five intensive campus residencies, coupled with guided study during four semesters.

The Residency
Each semester begins with a 10-day residency. One is held in January at the Oregon Coast and the other is held in June on the Pacific University campus. Residencies include workshops, lectures, panels, classes and readings, featuring award-winning writers who act as faculty members for the program and visiting writers who participate only during the residency. At the residencies, students are paired with a writer who serves as an advisor for the independent study that follows. Together, the student and advisor meet in conferences to develop a study plan for the subsequent guided study.

The Guided Study
Throughout the guided study, students send work to their advisors and, in turn, receive criticism and guidance, including specific suggestions and general advice for their developing craft and course of study. Students are expected to devote 20 to 25 hours each week to reading and writing.

Program Requirements
The MFA degree requires successful completion of four semesters of study and participation in five residencies. Students should expect to complete the following during the course of the program: read 80 works of literature; complete a critical essay concentrating on the creative works of one or more published authors; prepare a creative manuscript of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry; and give a critical introduction and public reading during their final residency.

Admissions
The MFA program seeks students who have demonstrated talent, commitment to the writing process, ability to look objectively at their work, and willingness to use criticism in a discriminating manner while remaining true to individual voice and vision. Applicants to the MFA program should hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution. Exceptions may be made to this requirement contingent upon the understanding that students must complete their undergraduate degree before enrolling in the MFA thesis semester. Admission is based primarily on the quality and promise exhibited in the applicant's creative manuscript, personal essay, and critical analysis.
The MFA program accepts new students twice a year for semesters beginning with the January and June residencies; students may enter the program at either time. For priority consideration, applicants should submit all materials by September 1st for the semester beginning in January or March 1st 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.

In addition to a creative manuscript, personal essay, and critical analysis, applicants are asked to submit two letters of reference and official transcripts. Specific guidelines can be found at http://www.pacificu.edu/future-graduate-professional/colleges/college-arts-science/areas-study/master-fine-arts-writing-mfa/admissions.

Questions?
We welcome the opportunity to speak with applicants and invite them to call or write Shelley Washburn with any questions they may have: 503-352-1532 or washburn@pacificu.edu.