MFA in Writing

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

Pacific’s Master of Fine Arts in Writing celebrates writing as an art that has the potential to make a difference in the world.

In a rigorous course of study and with an emphasis on the creative process, award-winning writers work closely with students to support emerging craft and voice. Through five intensive residencies coupled with four semesters of independent study, students create a polished portfolio of fiction, nonfiction or poetry.

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 and gives each a way of designing an individualized study plan carried out under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

The Residency
Every semester begins with a 10-day residency at the Oregon coast (January) or at Pacific University in Forest Grove (June). Residencies feature readings, workshops, classes, panels and lectures. During the residency each student is paired with a professional writer who will serve as an advisor for the semester of study that follows. Together, the student and advisor meet in conferences to develop a plan for the subsequent guided study.

The Guided Study
Throughout the guided study, students send work to their advisors and, in turn, receive critiques, guidance and support, including specific suggestions as well as general advice for the 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; give a public reading; and give a presentation to fellow students during the fifth 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. Qualified applicants should hold an undergraduate degree or be close to completing one at the time of application. Admission is based primarily on the quality and promise exhibited in the application manuscript and personal essay.
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.

Applicants are asked to submit an application form, creative manuscript, personal essay, critical analysis, two letters of reference and official transcripts. Specific guidelines can be found at http://www.pacificu.edu/as/mfa/admissions/applicationprocedure.cfm

Questions?
We welcome the opportunity to speak with applicants and invite them to call or write Colleen Sump with any questions they may have: 503-352-1533 or colleensump@pacificu.edu.