

Department of English

STUDENT OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PLAN

MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING

The English Major, at both undergraduate and graduate level, is designed to give proficiency in skills that traditionally have been among the most highly prized by society: an ability to read with comprehension and critical judgment; to communicate accurately and clearly; to grasp difficult ideas and think logically; to do research and organize materials; to evaluate texts historically and aesthetically; and to appreciate literature and the other arts.

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing offers advanced degree training to students who wish to gain expertise in the writing of poetry, fiction, and/or creative non-fiction prose (including biography and autobiography). It assumes that, as in music or the visual arts, the best education for the artist includes: training in the history and traditions associated with the student's discipline, training in theoretical and formal approaches to the craft, and extensive practice with critique of student work by peers and faculty writers. The program combines studio and academic approaches, providing the student with substantial critical workshop experience and a solid background in theory and literature.

SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Students graduating with an MFA in Creative Writing will

1. Gain a fuller knowledge of the theoretical and historical contexts for the writing and reception of poetry and prose fiction, demonstrating an enhanced knowledge of

1.1 Literary history and the canons of American, English and World literatures

1.2 The forms, genres and aesthetic principles of literatures in English

2. Develop the discipline and behaviors appropriate to a professional writer, specifically by enhancing their abilities to

2.1 Create a body of publishable poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction prose

2.2 Read and critique the work of others

2.3 Deliver/perform their creative work to a wider audience.

ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1

Objective 1.1
Emphasized in English 250T

Objective 1.2
Emphasized in English 241, 242

Goal 2

Objective 2.1 and 2.2
Emphasized in English 261, 263, 265

Objective 2.3
Applied in Publication in refereed student and professional journals;
presentation/performance as part of Graduate colloquia and
convocations

Skills gained over the course of the MFA are reinforced and integrated in the culminating experience, the thesis (English 299).

PROPOSED ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

2004-2005 Surveys of current MFA students and of recent alumni, in conjunction with the preparation of Department Self-Study, as part of the Department's periodic Program Reviews (Responsible Department Committees: Creative Writing, in conjunction with Graduate and Program Review)

- 2005-06 Development of Exit Survey, to be administered to all MFA candidates as they apply upon completion of their theses (Responsible Department Committees: Creative Writing, in conjunction with Graduate and Assessment)
- 2006-07 Development of scoring rubric and its application to the assessment of Writing Samples required of all entering MFA students. (Responsible Department Committee: Creative Writing)
- 2007-08 Development of scoring rubric and holistic reading of 250T term paper/essays (Responsible Department Committee: Graduate, augmented by cadre of current 250T instructors)
- 2008-09 Development of scoring rubric and holistic reading of 299 MFA Thesis projects (Responsible Department Committee: Creative Writing, augmented by cadre of current thesis advisors)
- 2009-2010 Development of Scoring Rubric and holistic reading of essays, short stories and poems published in CSUF student critical and creative writing journals and /or presented at Department or University sponsored colloquia and conferences (Responsible Department Committees: Assessment, Graduate and Creative Writing)
- 2010-2011 Surveys of current MFA students and of recent alumni, in conjunction with the preparation of Department Self-Study, as part of the Department's periodic Program Reviews (Responsible Department Committees: Creative Writing, in conjunction with Graduate and Program Review)