WRITING, MA POETRY SPECIALIZATION

Students enrolled in the poetry specialization will take workshops solely in poetry and continue to develop their creative and technical skills as both writers and readers. By the end of their coursework, students will have produced a strong body of new work or comprehensively revised a preexisting body of work.

Curriculum

Course	Title
Poetry Writing Workshops (4 units)	
MCW 411-0/411-DL	Poetry Workshop
Graduate-level literature courses taken from LIT, ENGLISH, COMP_LIT, or other departments of literary study (2 units)	
Electives (3 units)	
MCW 480-0	Prose for Poets
MCW 490-0/490-DL	Special Topics in Creative Writing
MCW 499-0	Independent Study (not to exceed one unit)
MCW 575-0/575-DL	Seminar on Journal Publishing
MCW 579-0	Practicum in Teaching Creative Writing
MCW 580-0	Practicum in Publishing
*Students may request permission to take one additional writing workshop as an elective**	
Capstone Writing (1 unit)	
MCW 590-0	Capstone Writing & Revision

*Students may not take more than five workshops total.

About the Thesis

The final project for the MA in Writing program is a creative thesis, an original work of high literary merit (judged on the basis of art as well as craft). Prose work should be at least 75 double-spaced pages and no more than 100 pages. Poetry should be 25 single-spaced pages and no more than 35 pages, with each poem on separate pages. The creative thesis is structured and revised under the supervision of a faculty member (or faculty mentor) and a second reader. The project may be one long piece or a series of shorter pieces. It may include or be an expansion of work written during the student's course of study as long as it represents a culminating effort to shape stories, prose pieces, a long piece, or a group of poems into a coherent, self-sufficient work. This large-scale project supplements the smaller-scale study of craft with the invaluable experience of creating a larger work. And for students who plan to pursue book-length publication after graduation, the master's creative thesis may be the first version of a work in progress. (Note: Students may not take writing workshops alongside thesis.)