

CREATIVE WRITING, MFA

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 15
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

ADMISSION PROCESS

Students who have earned a BA or equivalent degree may apply for admission to the MFA program in fiction or in poetry. Our MFA program has an "alternating genre" admissions policy. The program admits fiction writers in even-numbered years and poets in odd-numbered years. This alternating admissions schedule allows the program to provide a 2-to-1 student/teacher ratio and lets fiction instructors focus entirely on one group of fiction writers, and poetry instructors on one group of poets for the two-year instructional period.

All application materials—including transcripts, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose (reasons for graduate study), a writing sample, a CV, and the application fee—must be submitted online in pdf format by midnight, US Central Time, by deadline.

Further details about the admissions process can be found on the MFA admissions (<https://creativewriting.wisc.edu/gradapply/>) page.

PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Statement of Purpose (Reasons for Graduate Study): A statement of approximately 500 words explaining your reasons for pursuing this graduate degree.
- A Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Transcripts: An unofficial copy of undergraduate transcript(s) uploaded in pdf format is required. With the exception of study-abroad transcripts, applicants should provide transcripts from every post-secondary educational institution attended, even if transfer credits from one school appear on the transcripts of another. International academic records must be submitted in the original language and accompanied by an English translation. No official transcripts are required as part of the application. If recommended for admission to MFA in Creative Writing, then the Graduate School will send an instructional email request for official transcripts.
- Three Letters of Recommendation: Supply the names and email addresses of three recommenders in application. Recommenders will receive the request for letters from our system, via email.
- Supplemental Application Writing Sample
 - Writing Sample for Poetry submission (odd numbered entry years, Fall 2025, Fall 2027): A poetry manuscript, ten single-spaced pages in length, in eleven- or twelve-point font, with each poem beginning on a new page (for a maximum of ten poems, but likely fewer). If a cover page listing the poems is included, this will not count toward the ten-page limit. The applicant's name and page number should appear on each page of the writing sample. The program will not review Fiction applications during Poetry applicant review years.
 - Writing Sample for Fiction submission (even numbered entry years, Fall 2026, Fall 2028): A fiction manuscript, up to thirty double-spaced pages in length, in eleven- or twelve-point font, consisting of one or two short stories or novel excerpts. The applicant's name and page number should appear on each page of the writing sample. If including a novel excerpt, applicants may provide a brief synopsis of the novel in progress. The program cannot consider more than two stories or excerpts, and cannot read beyond the thirty-page limit. The program will not review Poetry applications during Fiction applicant review years.