

California State University, Fresno
Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
Program Requirements

English 250T and/or 280T <i>(These seminars in literature and critical theory have included the following recent examples: Japanese Novels, Plays in Performance, Anglo-Saxon English, Seventeenth Century Lyric Poetry, African American Literature, Film Theory Criticism and Dickens and Bronte)</i>	12 units*
English 261 (Poetry Writing) <i>or</i> English 263 (Fiction Writing) <i>or</i> English 265 (Creative Nonfiction Writing)	16 units*
English 241 (Form and Theory of Poetry) English 243 (Form and Theory of Fiction) English 245 (Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction)	8 units**
Approved electives in English or other fields	12 – 14 units*
English 299 (Thesis)	4 – 6 units

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED = 54 UNITS

The 54-unit MFA graduate program must include 38 units of 200 series graduate level courses as indicated in the California State University, Fresno, General Catalog.

In addition to the general Graduate Division requirements, advancement to candidacy requires a reading knowledge of one foreign language and fulfillment of the Graduate Writing Requirement. The foreign language requirement may be satisfied by either passing an examination or completing an acceptable translation of poetry and/or prose.

Graduation requirements include a grade of B or above on the Masters of Fine Arts subject area examination, usually taken during the final year, and a public reading by the graduating student (in place of a formal thesis defense). The thesis requirement consists of a unified, carefully crafted body of original work of publishable quality and length. Each student works closely with his or her thesis advisor to meet this requirement.

*Most courses offered in our MFA graduate program are 4 unit courses.

**Students must take at least one of these courses in their declared genre and one course in one of the other two genres.