

LITERATURE, WRITING AND PUBLISHING

Office: Room 6011
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Literature, Writing and Publishing Department Mission

The Literature, Writing and Publishing department provides students with a range of disciplines within English, from creative and professional writing, to the study of American, British, and international literature employing historical, theoretical, and cultural perspectives. Complementing the course of study are a number of programs, internships, and initiatives connecting students to the practical and professional applications of writing and the study of literature. Introductory and upper level writing courses are offered to help students develop individual style and voice. The required writing course, WRI 1100: Writing and Research, addresses the need of the student to exercise conscious citizenship in American society by learning to write and find credible sources about issues that daily affect the individual, and, by extension, contribute to a public forum. Literature, Writing and Publishing majors at St. Francis are educated to become global-minded, service-oriented professionals with outstanding writing and communication skills. Literature, Writing and Publishing majors develop skills for a variety of positions in business, research, education, publishing, finance, entertainment, and communications fields. Literature, Writing and Publishing also offers a strong background for graduate study in law, medicine, business and the humanities. In all its pursuits, the program reflects the college's Franciscan ideals of understanding and service. All members of the Literature, Writing and Publishing Department faculty are active scholars, writers, and creative artists with a firm commitment to teaching.

Program Student Learning Outcomes: Literature, Writing and Publishing

PLO 1: Organize thoughts into sentences and paragraphs with clear structure using forceful and energetic prose

PLO 2: Discuss, explain, and write about literature using a variety of critical theories and methods

PLO 3: Demonstrate skills, confidence, and competence in critical thinking and written expression

PLO 4: Employ a set of skills in analytical, research-driven, and creative writing.

Masters of Fine Arts in Creating Writing (MFA) Mission

The program's 10-day residencies convene twice per year, January 2nd - 12th and July 5th - 15th. Residencies consist of intensive faculty workshops, lectures and daily publishing panels with top agents, editors, and publishers. During the 6 months in between residencies, students will regularly exchange writing online with their faculty mentors, continuing the work that began in residency. Students will take 4 online workshops and attend 5 residencies to earn the 36 credits for their MFA degree. The 5th and final residency will culminate in a creative thesis—a novel, a chapbook of poetry or a short story collection.

This structure reflects the realities of life as a working writer. Aspiring writers learn how to be productive in their everyday lives with editorial feedback and contact, without giving up their day jobs. Unlike traditional MFA programs that demand a full-time commitment, our low-residency model represents the working life of the overwhelming majority of professionals in the field.

Program Student Learning Outcomes: PLOs shared by all tracks:

PLO 1: Revise and edit creative writing

PLO 2: Demonstrate their personal aesthetic

PLO 3: Generate a body of work worth performance or publication

Creative Writing: Fiction Track

PLO 4: Develop an understanding of structure as it relates to the short story, novella and novel.

PLO 5: Experiment with a variety of techniques and styles in the art of short and/or long form fiction writing.

Creative Writing: Poetry Track

PLO 4: Enhance their understanding of poetry as a dialogue, a conversation that takes place within a theoretical, historical and literary context, and occurs both between author and reader and between poets both past and present.

PLO 5: Learn the art and science of poetic practices. These practices include working within both received form and free verse, mastering the use of meter and rhyme, developing writing strategies, and workshopping.

Creative Writing: Screenwriting Track

PLO 4: Develop through writing exercises, script-in-hand readings and classroom critiques, the art of dramatic writing incorporating theater, film and other modes of writing for performance.

PLO 5: Gain a thorough understanding of the concepts of action, character, voice; and mood, atmosphere and setting, and their function in advancing dramatic narrative.

MFA Requirements

All applicants to the program must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. Applicants will submit a creative writing sample consisting of 25 pages for dramatic writing, 20-25 pages of fiction. Poets will submit up to 20 pages of poetry. The application must also include a statement of purpose.

Programs

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Courses Faculty Chair

Dr. Athena Devlin

Professor

Maloney
Tague

Associate Professors

Devlin
Franklin

Assistant Professor

Hagood

Senior Lecturers

Dubow
Gangi

Lecturers

Levenberg

Adjuncts

Afzal
Ait-Zaine
Albrecht
Baish
Bové
Donnelly
Gonzales
Gray
Jones
Linden
Louzonis
Olerich
Pizzino
Simmons
Williams