

# Application *for* Admission

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Division of Graduate Studies



WESTERN  
CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## What do I need to apply to these programs?

### HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Master of Health Administration: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\* of at least a 2.5 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- GMAT, GRE or MAT test
- Two letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Master of Science: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- GMAT, GRE, LSAT or MAT test
- Current resume
- Two letters of recommendation
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### MATH & SCIENCE

Master of Arts: *Biological & Environmental Science, Earth & Planetary Science, English, History, Mathematics*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\*. See graduate catalog.
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### ART

Master of Fine Arts Options in: *Painting or Illustration*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Portfolio Review
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### EDUCATION

Master of Science Options in: *Curriculum, Instructional Technology, Reading, Special Education*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Valid teacher certification
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

## What do I need to apply to these programs? (continued)

### COUNSELING

Master of Science: *Options in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Letter of application stating the reasons for entering the program
- Written personal history or resume
- Three letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956
- School Counseling (*see Graduate Catalog for additional admission requirements*)

### MUSIC

Master of Science: *Music Education*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Valid teacher certification
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### NURSING

Master of Science: *Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Nurse Practitioner*

Post-Masters Certification: *Adult Nurse Practitioner*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- A copy of your RN license
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Written personal history or resume
- MAT test
- One letter of reference from an administrator and/or employer
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### BUSINESS

Master of Business Administration: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee.
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Written personal history or resume
- GMAT test
- Two letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

## What do I need to apply to these programs? (continued)

### CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL WRITING

#### Master of Fine Arts in Creative & Professional Writing

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Completed MFA Application
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- Additional forms – download from MFA Web site or request from MFA coordinator
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- C.V. or resume
- Writing sample
- Application essay
- Immunization Records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

### TEACHING

#### Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education (Biology, Mathematics, or Spanish)

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Transcript evaluation and \$75 fee
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended (mailed)
- Passing score on Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests and Praxis II Subject Assessment(s)
- Interview with program coordinator
- Combined Undergraduate GPA\* of at least 2.8 from **all** completed coursework  
If an applicant's cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) is below 2.8, the applicant must present a score rated at the 35th percentile or higher on the Miller Analogies Test, as indicated below:  
Undergraduate GPA Miller Analogies Test required scores  

2.8 or higher – M.A.T. not required	2.57 to 2.79 – 35th percentile	2.47 to 2.56 – 45th percentile
2.37 to 2.46 – 50th percentile	Below 2.37 – 60th percentile	
- Completion of at least two undergraduate general education math courses with a grade of B or higher, as well as all content area courses to be determined by transcript evaluation
- Immunization Records if born after Dec. 31, 1956
- Qualified applicants will be invited to interview after a review of the application is completed by the M.A.T. Program Admissions Review Committee.

### NON-MATRICULATED GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Meet the Undergraduate GPA\* requirements for the course of interest
- Satisfy the prerequisites for the course of interest
- RN license for Nursing Courses
- Teacher Certification required for Education and Educational Psychology courses
- Approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator may be needed in some situations
- Immunization Records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

**Note:** Students can only be non-matriculated for one semester and are limited to taking only six credits as a non-matriculant. After one semester, students must matriculate in order to enroll in additional classes. Permission to take a course is based on available space in the desired course of interest.

\* GPA calculation includes all grades from completed undergraduate coursework at all universities and colleges attended – whether matriculated or not. WCSU considers all undergraduate coursework taken at other universities, including courses that have been retaken or courses that may have been deleted from GPA computation for any reason.

It is the student's responsibility to understand and meet any GPA\* requirements before registering for any graduate course.

Enrolling in graduate courses as a non-matriculated student does not guarantee acceptance in a graduate program at Western Connecticut State University.

# Graduate Application

A \$50 application fee is required. Checks should be made payable to Western Connecticut State University. Mail completed application with your check to WCSU, Division of Graduate Studies, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

DATE OF APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_ I plan to begin the program (check one):  Fall 20\_\_\_\_  Spring 20\_\_\_\_

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, STATE) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship:  US Citizen  Permanent Visa  F-1 Student Visa  F-2 Student Visa  Other Visa Status

Alien Information: Do you hold an Alien Registration Receipt Card (Green Card)?  
 No  Yes, please enclose photocopy of both sides of your Green Card. Alien No. \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application:  First Time  Re-Entry to WestConn (Division of Graduate Studies)  Transfer\*

\* If transferring, from what school will you be transferring credits? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever taken a course at WestConn?  Yes  No If yes, was it  Undergraduate  Graduate  
 How did you first hear about WestConn?  Friend/family  College fair  Radio ad  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**DATA** (optional—for research use only)

Sex:  Male  Female  
 Ethnicity:  Hispanic or Latin  Not Hispanic or Latin  
 Race:  American Indian or Alaska Native  Asian  Black or African American  
 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  White  Asian

**EDUCATION:** Indicate the college you earned your bachelors degree from and the year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_  
 List all other colleges and universities attended:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME	DATES ATTENDED	SPECIALIZATION	DEGREE (IF EARNED)	DEGREE DATE

(If needed, attach a separate sheet to indicate more colleges)

# Graduate Application

Please indicate the degree program that you are applying to:

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## M.S. DEGREE PROGRAMS

Education

Options (Choose One):

\_\_\_ Curriculum

\_\_\_ Instructional Technology

\_\_\_ Reading

\_\_\_ Special Education

Music Education

Counseling Options (Choose One):

\_\_\_ Clinical Mental Health Counseling

\_\_\_ School Counseling

Justice Administration

Nursing

Options (Choose One):

\_\_\_ Clinical Nurse Specialist

\_\_\_ Adult Nurse Practitioner

## MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (M.A.T.)

\_\_\_ Secondary Education (7-12): Biology

\_\_\_ Secondary Education (7-12): Mathematics

\_\_\_ Secondary Education (7-12): Spanish

## M.A. DEGREE PROGRAMS

Biological & Environmental Sciences

Earth & Planetary Sciences

English Options (Choose One):

\_\_\_ Literature

\_\_\_ Writing

History

Mathematics

## OTHER DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master of Business Administration

Master of Fine Arts (Choose One):

\_\_\_ Painting

\_\_\_ Illustration

Master of Fine Arts in Creative & Professional Writing

Master of Health Administration

Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership

*Contact Division of Graduate Studies office  
for separate application.*

## NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

Post-Master's Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification

School Counseling Certification

Non-Matriculated Status

### Important Health Notice!

Connecticut state law requires students to present immunization in order to register for courses. Please visit [wcsu.edu/healthservice](http://wcsu.edu/healthservice) and click on "Immunization Requirements" for details.

Each program has different criteria for admittance. Students must fulfill all criteria before being fully matriculated and accepted into a program. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a graduate catalog and to understand the criteria for the program of interest.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE



NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about WestConn's M.F.A. in Creative & Professional Writing Program? \_\_\_\_\_

◆ **EDUCATION:** List all other colleges and universities attended.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME	DATES ATTENDED	SPECIALIZATION/MAJOR	DEGREE EARNED	DEGREE DATE

(If needed, attach a separate sheet to indicate additional colleges)

◆ **WRITING EXPERIENCE:** Are you currently employed as a writer, or have you been employed as a writer in the past? If so, identify your position(s) and briefly describe your duties.

DATE	POSITION	EMPLOYER	ADDRESS

◆ **REFERENCES:** Provide a list of five professional and creative contacts (name, affiliation, telephone number, snail mail address and email address). If you would like to submit confidential letters of recommendation (optional), please have them sent under separate cover to the Division of Graduate Studies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I waive the right to have access to letters of recommendation written on my behalf.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Is your interest in our program more focused on its creative or practical writing offerings? Please explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

◆ Identify your preferred creative genre (poetry, fiction, etc.) and your preferred practical genre (technical writing, journalism, PR/marketing, etc.).

Creative: \_\_\_\_\_ Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Are you a published writer? If you have not listed publications on your c.v., please list them here or on a separate page.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ In a five-page essay, address why this particular MFA program is better suited to your goals and needs than other MFA programs. In answering this question, touch on your interest in writing and your aspirations for a future in the writing profession. Clip (do not staple) the essay to this admissions application.
- ◆ Submit a twenty- to fifty-page hard copy portfolio of writing samples in multiple genres. The portfolio may include excerpts from longer works and may consist of creative and/or practical work in any genre. Please submit this work in a manila folder. No originals.
- ◆ I plan to complete the 60-credit program in \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 or \_\_\_\_\_ 4 years. (check one)
- ◆ I wish to begin the program during: \_\_\_\_\_ Summer Residency \_\_\_\_\_ Winter Residency (check one)
- ◆ I do \_\_\_\_\_/do not \_\_\_\_\_ wish to be considered for a Graduate Assistant position in the English or Writing Department.

If you plan to use a tuition voucher or other tuition reduction plan, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Applicants who plan to use Connecticut senior citizen or Connecticut State University employee tuition vouchers may be admitted to the program only if space is available.

Summer residency is held the first full week in August; winter residency is held during the first full week in January.

**New students must attend the first residency.**

If you are planning on applying for financial aid, please do so now. Payment for your first semester is due one month before your first residency. For financial aid information, contact the Financial Aid Office at (203) 837-8580 or on the web at: [wcsu.edu/admissions/financialaid.asp](http://wcsu.edu/admissions/financialaid.asp)

The MFA Committee may request an interview with the candidate before making its final decision.

- ◆ I have answered all questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. The portfolio that I have submitted for consideration is my own work and represents my own artistic and creative writing abilities.

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APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

Do not write below this line.

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For MFA Candidate Interview Committee use:

\_\_\_\_\_ Accepted

\_\_\_\_\_ Declined

Reason for declining applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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COORDINATOR, MFA IN CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

DATE





## MFA IN CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Dear MFA Applicant:

We are delighted to hear of your interest in the Western Connecticut State University MFA in Creative and Professional Writing, a low-residency MFA program dedicated to educating career writers for the contemporary marketplace. You will find in this packet all of the information and materials you need to complete your application. Please also be sure to see our website at <http://www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa/>. And, of course, I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about the program.

The enclosures here include a typical schedule of courses that you will complete in the program. Also enclosed in the packet, you will find a more detailed description of those courses. All students in the program will complete this course sequence, unless one or two of the courses are covered by transfer credit (students are limited to 8 hours of transfer credit). However, as you will quickly ascertain by reading the descriptions, our courses are quite unique and designed to contribute to the creation of a community of writers who are engaged in common issues. We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the program's full potential by enrolling in all of the courses in the sequence.

Please also find here two application forms, one for the Graduate Studies office and one for the MFA program. The enclosed checklist will help you to coordinate your completion of both applications and the parallel material you are required to submit. In the essay that we request, we are looking for a combination of clarity of expression, logical and creative ability, understanding of our program, and evidence of dedication to (and/or hunger for) the writing life. Please note that while we read applications and grant admission on a rolling basis, students wishing to be considered for the first residency scholarship should submit their applications by March 1. This is a postmark deadline.

As you probably know, the program features a highly reputable faculty of professional writers, creative writing professors, and academics in the Western Connecticut Writing Department, complemented by six Writers in Residence of national reputation and a number of Writing Mentors selected specifically to meet the demand created by your genres of interest. Please check the web site for faculty bios.

We plan a full slate of entertaining and informative activities during the residencies with a variety of agents, editors, and guest writers. You have probably realized by now, though, that coursework in the Western Connecticut program is driven and designed by you. We provide you and your faculty mentors a framework within which to work; it's up to you to decide how best to fill in the details and help create your own educational experience. It's up to you to select your genres of specialization, up to you to design reading lists and work contracts, and up to you to design your enrichment project. I will be available to advise you at these and all other stages of the program.

In closing, let me just point out a few things you'll need in order to participate in the program. First, you'll have to have reliable access to a computer with Internet access. You will use the computer to participate in an online workshop each semester, to conduct research, and to communicate with me, with your student colleagues, and with faculty members. Second, you'll need to be able to set aside a week-long block of time to attend a residency each semester that

you are enrolled (one in early August and one in early January). Finally, you'll need the drive and determination necessary to get the most out of a program that you will help to design yourself

We look forward to receiving your application and hope to meet you at the next residency, if not before.

Sincerely,

Brian Clements  
Professor and Coordinator  
MFA in Creative and Professional Writing  
ClementsB@wcsu.edu  
203-837-8876  
<http://www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa>

## WCSU MFA in Creative and Professional Writing

### Genre and Schedule Questionnaire

#### I. Genre

Your studies at WestConn will focus on two genres: a primary genre and a second genre. In order to meet the needs of the program, we will conduct part of our faculty hiring based on your fields of interest. In order to gauge your interest, we ask that you complete this form and return it with your application packet. This is the only way we can ensure that your fields of interest are addressed.

You will select one creative genre (for instance: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, drama, screenwriting, YA fiction, etc.) and one practical genre (for instance: journalism, investigative reporting, technical writing, science writing, medical writing, public relations, marketing, advertising copy, historical biography, etc.). *These are only examples, and we encourage you to list others if your real interest lies outside the genres we have suggested.*

Your primary genre may be a creative genre or a practical genre; if your primary genre is creative, your second genre must be practical, and vice versa.

***If you are undecided about your primary and second genres, it is very important that you list at the bottom of this page your fields of potential interest, both creative and practical.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

My primary genre of interest is \_\_\_\_\_.

creative/practical (circle one)

My second genre of interest is \_\_\_\_\_.

creative/practical (circle one)

I am undecided about one or both of the above. The fields that interest me are:

## II. Schedule

You have three schedule options for completing the program:  
2-year, 3-year, and 4-year.

Please note that the Coordinator can also work out other schedule plans – including plans for part-time study.

In the **2-year program**, you will complete the program in four successive semesters of study.

In the **3-year program**, most students will complete the program with one year of two-semester study and two years of one-semester study. It helps us if you can designate these semesters at application time (see below\*); your schedule can be adjusted later, if necessary.

In the **4-year program**, most students will complete the program with four years of one-semester study. It helps us if you can designate these semesters at application time (see below\*); your schedule can be adjusted later, if necessary.

Note also that you are required to attend four residencies; unless you opt for the campus workshop option (see Program Description and Degree Requirements sheet). Finally, please note that due to program dynamics and the need to orient students and faculty, students who prefer to begin the program in the Fall semester (August residency) may be given preference over students who prefer to begin the program in the Spring semester (January residency).

It is essential that you complete the following schedule request. Our admissions process requires that we know the following information so that we can align student scheduling requirements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer the  2-year  3-year  4-year schedule.

I will begin the program in the \_\_\_\_\_ semester.

### **3- or 4-year option**

\*I prefer to take the \_\_\_\_\_ semester(s) off.

I expect to enroll part-time in some or all semesters.

## Western Connecticut MFA in Creative and Professional Writing

### Program Description and Degree Requirements

#### Program Overview

The program is built around five essential blocks:

- I. Residencies
- II. Coursework
- III. Practicum/Internship
- IV. Enrichment Project
- V. Thesis

#### I. Residencies

The program hosts two residencies per year: one in the first week of August and another in the first week of January. **Attendance is required at any residency that correlates to any semester in which you are enrolled** (for an alternative, please see the following section, Campus Workshops). August residencies correlate to Fall semesters; January residencies correlate to Spring semesters.

The residencies provide the essential locus for building community in the program. You will get the most out of the program by taking advantage of the presence, work, and comments of your colleagues in the program at the residencies. Becoming an engaged and active member of the program at the residencies will also increase the likelihood that you will be able to take advantage of networking opportunities with students and faculty when you graduate.

At the residencies, you can expect a week of intense work and equally intense entertainment. Our days will start at approximately 9 am and will run throughout the day with workshops, lectures, and meetings with faculty, and will conclude with readings and other social events after a community dinner.

So that we might achieve that sense of community and foster a rich residency experience, attendance is required for all students at all events during the residency. Local students might best think of the residency as traveling to a remote location without going far. While we understand that Danbury residents may choose to sleep at home in their own beds, they should plan on being away from home and away from work for the full day every day of the residency. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the residencies and the need to have all students participating in them fully.

### *Campus Workshops*

We also understand that local students might appreciate ongoing programming outside of the residencies. Therefore, we offer a series of on-campus workshops, readings, and lectures during the normal academic year. Students have the option to forego one residency in favor of attending five of these on-campus workshops sponsored by the program. However, this option is not available in the first semester; **all students must attend the residency that corresponds to their first semester of enrollment.**

Campus workshops are open to all students in the program, not just to students who choose to select the workshop option in lieu of one residency.

The Campus Workshop Option in lieu of one residency is also available to non-local students, but the cost may be prohibitive to them due to travel, depending on where they live.

## **II. Coursework**

Please see the Recommended Course Sequence and Course Descriptions that arrived in this packet.

In the Multi-Genre Workshop, you will work on projects in your two chosen genres; you will also do some writing in other genres. You will critique the writing of other students in the workshop, and they will critique your work. The critiques and wide array of writing assignments are designed to help you build critical, writing, and editorial skills that are necessary for the professional writer or editor.

With the exception of the Internship/Practicum course, all of the other courses are individual, student-driven mentorships. In each course, you will work one-on-one with a faculty member to design the syllabus, create a reading list, define the writing workload, and schedule your meetings, whether online, by mail, by phone, or in person.

It is most important to remember that you bear the responsibility of getting the most out of these classes. Your return will be determined almost entirely by your level of investment in the course. You will need to do independent research, to drive yourself to write frequently, and to ask the right questions of your mentors.

All of the mentors in the program will be highly successful writers in their respective fields. Their role, rather than to dictate to you a set of knowledge, is to guide you through your own journey of discovery. They will provide you with feedback, ask you directed and challenging questions, suggest useful writing projects, and direct you to important resources.

As you probably know by now, part of the application process for the program involves selecting two genres as your primary and second genres, one creative and one practical. The faculty members with whom you will work in the program are determined by your genres of interest and the faculty's genres of expertise. We will make every effort to match you with the faculty members you want most to work with.

### **III. Practicum and Internships**

One of the goals of the program is to give you practical, hands-on experience working in one of your fields of interest. Students who are interested in teaching may choose to complete a teaching practicum by teaching at any level and completing a parallel project such as an essay or journaling.

Students who are not interested in teaching may participate in an internship that complements their course of study. The MFA Coordinator can assist the student in setting up such an internship with organizations, businesses, or institutions across the country. The student might, for example, intern at a commercial magazine, for a newspaper or book publisher, as a grant writer, in a technical writing shop, or any other appropriate venue.

### **IV. Enrichment Projects**

Enrichment projects are designed to give the student an opportunity to explore an avenue of learning outside the course structure that he or she might not have the time or initiative to explore otherwise. The student will design in collaboration with the MFA Coordinator a project that will increase his or her ability as a writer, provide valuable networking contacts, or educate and enrich the student on a personal or professional level. The student might, for example, choose to learn a foreign language, start a new online publication, volunteer for a non-profit organization, or try another challenging and appropriate activity.

### **V. Thesis**

In your final semester, you will register for 8 hours of thesis work. This time is designed to allow you to complete your final thesis, a book-length (or appropriate equivalent) piece of work in your primary genre (or, perhaps in some cases, a combination of the primary and the second genre). The completed thesis must be approved by your thesis committee (first reader, second reader, and MFA Coordinator) in order to receive the degree. The committee will judge the thesis on the quality and publishability of the work.

**The MFA in Creative and Professional Writing at  
Western Connecticut State University**

**Recommended Course Sequence and Course Descriptions**

**First Year Courses:**

First Semester

WRT 543	Online Multi-Genre Workshop I	4 credits
WRT 536	Reading for Writers I (Primary Genre)	4 credits
WRT 539	Genre, History, Criticism, and Theory	4 credits
WRT 542	Writing in the Primary Genre I	4 credits

Second Semester

WRT 579	Online Multi-Genre Workshop II	4 credits
WRT 537	Reading for Writers II (Second Genre)	4 credits
WRT 576	Writing in the Primary Genre II	4 credits
WRT 578	Writing in the Second Genre	4 credits

**Second Year Courses:**

First Semester

WRT 582	Online Multi-Genre Workshop III	4 credits
WRT 577	Writing in the Primary Genre III	4 credits
WRT 569	Internship or Teaching Practicum	4 credits
WRT 571	The Individual Aesthetic and Process	4 credits

Second Semester

WRT 583	Online Multi-Genre Workshop IV	4 credits
WRT 584	Thesis/PDE	8 credits



## FIRST YEAR COURSES

### **WRT 543, 579 Online Multi-Genre Workshops** (4 credits)

The student will participate regularly with student colleagues and with an instructor in on-line discussion of student work in multiple genres. The course will help students to develop the capacity to analyze, edit, and discuss their own work and the work of others. It will also train them to benefit from editorial observations and critiques. The workshop instructor may also introduce outside texts and writing exercises.

### **WRT 536 Reading for Writers I (Primary Genre)** (4 credits)

This guided, self-designed course provides the writer with a foundation of readings in the genre. Under the guidance of a professional writer in the genre, each student will develop a substantial reading list of "classics" of the particular writing field as well as the work of important contemporary practitioners.

### **WRT 539 Genre History, Criticism and Theory** (4 credits)

Under guidance of a professional writer or scholar in the writing field, the student will design a specific curriculum for achieving a working awareness of the history, range of criticism, and critical theory associated with the writing genre. Reading will certainly be a part of this, but papers or interviews, attendance at lectures, formal courses or other modalities may also be a part of this course.

### **WRT 542 Writing in the Primary Genre I** (4 credits)

With the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will research, develop, and write a customized project or projects for the course.

### **WRT 537 Reading for Writers II (Second Genre)** (4 credits)

The rationale for this course is the same as that for Reading for Writers I. However, depending upon the student's individual background and choices of genres, the second genre may be less familiar to the student and, therefore, may require extra attention. Under the guidance of a professional writer in the genre, each student will develop a substantial reading list of books the student should be familiar with.

### **WRT 576 Writing in the Primary Genre II** (4 credits)

This second required course in the primary genre will further develop the writer's skills. Again, students will research, develop, and write a project or projects for the course.

### **WRT 578 Writing in the Second Genre** (4 credits)

The professional writer needs the ability to move from one genre of writing to another. The program, therefore, requires the student to concentrate on a second genre of writing. With the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will research, develop, and write a project or projects for this course.

## **SECOND YEAR COURSES**

### **WRT 582,583 Online Multi-Genre Workshops** (4 credits)

The student will participate regularly with student colleagues and with an instructor in on-line discussion of student work in multiple genres. The course will help students to develop the capacity to analyze, edit, and discuss their own work and the work of others. It will also train them to benefit from editorial observations and critiques. The workshop instructor may also introduce outside texts and writing exercises.

### **WRT 577 Writing in the Primary Genre III** (4 credits)

This third required course in the primary genre will further develop the writer's skills. Again, students will research, develop, and write a project or projects for the course.

### **WRT 569 Internship or Teaching Practicum** (4 credits)

The program requires students to share their understandings as writers with others who want or need to write. The student will work as a teacher or coach of writing under the tutelage of a qualified mentor. Alternatively, the student may participate in an internship to gain hands-on experience in a chosen field. The student will be required to keep a journal of his or her experience and to write a substantial evaluation of the experience.

### **WRT 571 The Individual and Aesthetic Process** (4 credits)

The program requires students to develop a sense of their own voices and to learn how to be self-critical about their writing. The student will write a theory of writing that examines his or her own view of what makes effective and significant writing. The goal is to develop standards of value appropriate to the genre in which the writer wishes to excel. The writer must articulate a theoretical basis that involves awareness of critical perspectives on his or her principal genre.

### **WRT 584 Thesis** (8 credits)

The student will write a book-length piece of writing in the primary genre. The writer will develop this thesis in consultation with a thesis director and second reader. The program requires students to complete the thesis in a publishable form as judged by the thesis advisor and M.F.A coordinator and reviewed by the M.F.A. committee.



**WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT**

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING**

**NAME:**

**DATE:**

**ADDRESS:**

**EMAIL:**

**TEL:**

**Primary Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Second Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST SEMESTER**

WRT 543	Online Multigenre Workshop I	4 S.H. _____
WRT 536	Reading for Writers I (Primary Genre)	4 S.H. _____
WRT 539	Genre History, Criticism, and Theory	4 S.H. _____
WRT 542	Writing in the Primary Genre I	4 S.H. _____

**SECOND SEMESTER**

WRT 579	Online Multigenre Workshop II	4 S.H. _____
WRT 537	Reading for Writers II (Second Genre)	4 S.H. _____
WRT 576	Writing in the Primary Genre II	4 S.H. _____
WRT 578	Writing in the Second Genre	4 S.H. _____

**THIRD SEMESTER**

WRT 582	Online Multigenre Workshop III	4 S.H. _____
WRT 577	Writing in the Primary Genre III	4 S.H. _____
WRT 569	Internship or Teaching Practicum	4 S.H. _____
WRT 571	The Individual Aesthetic and Process	4 S.H. _____

**FOURTH SEMESTER**

WRT 583	Online Multigenre Workshop IV	4 S.H. _____
WRT 584	Thesis	8 S.H. _____

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS:** 60

I intend to complete the program in : 2 years \_\_\_\_ 3 years \_\_\_\_ 4 years \_\_\_\_ (check one)

Admission requirements and degree requirements have been explained to me, including the requirement of a non-credit enrichment project, and I understand my obligation to read the graduate catalogue.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Western Connecticut State University  
MFA in Creative and Professional Writing  
Application Checklist**

*The application deadline is February 1. This is a postmark deadline.*

Send all materials to:  
Division of Graduate Studies  
Western Connecticut State University  
181 White St.  
Danbury, CT 06810

Your application packet must include the following materials in order to be complete:

- Completed Application for Admission, Master of Fine Arts in Creative and Professional Writing. Plus:
  - Five-page essay (see the application form for instructions)
  - Twenty- to fifty-page portfolio (see the application form for instructions)<sup>1</sup>
  
- Completed Application for Admission, Graduate Studies. Plus:
  - Official transcripts from all institutions of higher learning you have attended<sup>2</sup>
  - Immunization records, if born after 12/31/56
  - A photocopy of your Alien Registration Receipt Card, if you hold one
  - \$50 application fee
  
- Curriculum vitae or résumé
  
- Genre and Schedule Questionnaire

Confidential letters of recommendation are not required, but may be sent under separate cover to the Graduate Studies office.

It is likely that you will be asked to participate in a phone interview with the program coordinator as part of the application process.

<sup>1</sup> The committee prefers to see writing samples in multiple genres. However, if the applicant has writing samples in only one genre, multiple genres are not required.

<sup>2</sup> Admission to the program requires an undergraduate degree in any field. You must provide transcriptual evidence of the degree.