“What attracted me to the M.F.A. program was the ability to shape the program to meet my specific writing goals. Not only am I studying to become a published writer in my genres, I am actually writing and submitting my work for publication under the expert guidance of professional writing mentors. I’m getting a practical, ‘real world’ education.”

— Anne Witkavich

“I was looking for an MFA program that would fit into my busy life, and this is perfect! I am a full-time English teacher and I have two children. Every mentor and advisor on the faculty has proven to be encouraging and understanding of the demands of real life in a writer’s world. I am so honored to be in the program. The one-week residencies have afforded us the opportunity to form strong bonds of friendship and trust which have made learning and working together a true joy.”

— Kirstin Genthner

Information
For more information on the program or to download an application for admission, visit www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa or contact the MFA office at (203) 837-8878.

Master of Fine Arts
Creative & Professional Writing
Western Connecticut State University
181 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810
Brian Clements, Coordinator
Phone: (203) 837-8876
Email: clements@wcsu.edu
www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa

Division of Graduate Studies
Phone: (203) 837-8244
Fax: (203) 837-8326
www.wcsu.edu/graduate
Program requirements

Western’s M.F.A. in Creative and Professional Writing offers 60 hours of one-on-one guided training and group instruction. Students will select one creative and one practical genre on which to focus their studies. The program is designed with the flexibility to accommodate study in any desired genre. Students currently in the program study poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, drama, screenwriting for film and television and writing for young adults and children on the creative side and feature writing, public relations, marketing, technical writing, writing for the web, medical writing, investigative reporting, specialty journalism, historical nonfiction and film criticism on the practical side. Study is not limited to these genres.

A typical course sequence is comprised of an online workshop each semester, courses on reading and writing in the primary and second genres and specialized courses such as “The Individual Aesthetic and Process” and “Genre History, Criticism, and Theory” that provide the specific knowledge required to maintain a writing career. The final semester is mainly dedicated to completion of the thesis: a book or production-length manuscript or the genre-appropriate equivalent.

Students will also complete an enrichment project that complements the course of study. Students have produced projects such as starting a new literary publication, creating community-based literary and literacy programs, working as a contract writer, learning a foreign language, learning a complementary skill such as photography, establishing an internal website for the use of the M.F.A. program and creating online services to assist professional writers.

Low residency

Our competitively priced and convenient low-residency structure allows you to study from wherever you live. Faculty and students congregate for residencies—in August and in January—and return home to finish the semester in one-on-one distance study that accommodates a variety of full-time and part-time schedules. Students who live close to Danbury may take advantage of on-campus programming, such as readings and workshops, throughout the academic year.

“I feel like my craft has been given at least a five-year jump. I had no idea the things I would learn about writing by the end.”

—David Holub