



## Overview

The MA Concentration in Creative Writing is recommended for students preparing to teach at the community college level, for those students whose objective is to pursue an MFA or PhD in creative writing, and for writers seeking to advance their understanding of creative writing practice and theory.

### A. Required Core Curriculum: 16 units

The required core consists of the four courses listed below. ENGL 200A is the introductory graduate-studies course and should be taken as soon as possible. ENGL 201D and ENGL 275 build upon and develop the concepts and skills that are introduced in ENGL 200A.

- ENGL 200A: “Methods and Materials of Literary Research” (4 units)
- ENGL 201D: “Contemporary Theory” (4 units)
- ENGL 220A: “Teaching College Composition” (4 units)
- ENGL 275: “Seminar in Literary History” (4 units)

### B. Additional Required Coursework: 12 units

The choice of ENGL 230X or 230Y will largely depend on the student’s area of interest (i.e., fiction or poetry). ENGL 299 may be substituted only if approval is given in advance by the Creative Writing Program Coordinator and the Graduate Coordinator.

- ENGL 230X “Master Class in Writing Fiction”
- OR**  ENGL 230Y “Master Class in Writing Poetry”
- Creative Writing Elective from the ENGL 230 series: \_\_\_\_\_
- Creative Writing Elective from the ENGL 130 OR ENGL 230 series: \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Culminating Experience—Comprehensive Exam: 2 units

All English MA students complete the degree with a two-unit culminating experience: ENGL 500. The culminating experience for the Creative Writing concentration consists of a comprehensive examination. To enroll in 500, students must have an Advancement to Candidacy form on file with the Office of Graduate Studies in the semester before enrolling in ENGL 500.

- ENGL 500 Culminating Experience—Comprehensive Exam (2 units)

## Recommended Course Sequencing

Because most 200-level classes are offered only once per year, it is important that you plan your coursework carefully so as not to delay your graduation. To complete the MA in two years, the following sequence is recommended for full-time students enrolled in eight units per semester:

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	ENGL 200A Any ENGL 130 or 230	ENGL 201D ENGL 230X or 230Y
<b>Year 2</b>	ENGL 220A Any ENGL 230	ENGL 275 ENGL 500

## Advancing to Candidacy

Once you have completed 12 units toward the MA, you become eligible to advance to candidacy. You must have an approved Advancement to Candidacy form on file with the Office of Graduate Studies before you can enroll in ENGL 500, the culminating experience. Plan to file for Advancement to Candidacy no later than one semester prior to your enrollment in ENGL 500; please note that the deadline for advancing to candidacy is typically early in the semester and that late applications are not considered. Please see the English Department websites for instructions on filing your Advancement to Candidacy.

## Enrolling in ENGL 500—The Comprehensive Exam

All English MA-Creative Writing students will take the Comprehensive Exam for ENGL 500, the culminating experience. Eligibility to enroll in ENGL 500 requires the following:

1. You must have an approved Advancement to Candidacy on file with the Office of Graduate Studies. Please review your transcript, which will indicate your Advancement to Candidacy after it has been approved.
2. You must have completed, or be in the process of completing, all graduate coursework during the semester in which you enroll in ENGL 500.
3. Your transcript must include no more than one grade of Incomplete.
4. When the conditions above are met, please submit a "[Permission to Enroll in ENGL 500--Exam](#)" form to the English Department.

## Additional Information

- Students must complete 30 units of coursework for the MA.
- Creative Writing students can apply just one 100-level course for credit to the MA (i.e., one course from the ENGL 130 series).
- In order to satisfy the Graduation Writing Requirement (GWAR) and Advance to Candidacy, students must receive a grade of "B" or higher in ENGL 200A or 220A.
- Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. No units with a grade lower than "C" may apply towards the degree.
- Any deviation or substitutions for any of the required or elective courses should be discussed in advance with the Creative Writing Coordinator and with the Graduate Coordinator, whose approval must be obtained.

## Questions?

If you have questions or need help, please contact the Graduate Coordinator by emailing [engl-grad@csus.edu](mailto:engl-grad@csus.edu).