

Curriculum Requirements

36 hours and completion of a thesis

4 workshops in home genre
+ 1 cross-genre workshop
+ EN506
+4 electives
+2 semesters of thesis



In-Person Coursework

Students should plan to take all coursework in person on our Indianapolis campus, mainly in the Efroymsen Center for Creative Writing. Thesis work may be completed remotely, with permission.



Public Reading

All MFA students are required to read their work in public at least once during the course of their studies. The reading does not need to be from thesis material, nor must it occur during the thesis year. The program will make several opportunities available, but these do not exclude other public community reading opportunities.



Service Project

The MFA program considers service a founding principle and requires all MFA students to complete a service project. Students have a variety of options to fulfill this requirement, such as working as a reader for Booth, volunteering for Writing in the Schools, or participating in the Wellness Initiative.

4 Workshops

Workshops are the heart of the program. Each student must take 4 workshops in their home genre of either Fiction (EN502), Non-Fiction (EN502) or Poetry (EN503).

Cross-Genre Workshop

One workshop outside of the student's home genre is required.

EN 506

Each student must take EN506. In poetry, this is listed as "Poetry Theory," and in prose, this is listed as "Reading for Writers." These classes are typically offered every third semester.

4 Electives

Students may take electives at the 500-level in the MFA, or at the 300+ level in the English department. One additional workshop may count as an elective.

2 Semesters of Thesis

All workshops must be complete before beginning thesis work. An elective may be taken simultaneously with thesis. Thesis courses EN710 and EN711 cannot be taken simultaneously, and EN710 must be completed before moving on to EN711.

Electives

EN501: Graduate Seminar Special Topic

Different offerings each semester

EN505: Literary Editing and Publishing

EN595/ 596: Graduate Independent Studies

Each student may take one independent study for 3 credit hours

300+ level English Courses

300+ level courses offered by other Butler departments may be taken for elective credit with approval from the MFA Director

Summer Courses

Students intending to finish the program in less than three years will almost certainly need to take summer courses.

Course offerings will vary by demand, though the most common summer course is the fiction workshop.

Pacing & Time to Complete

Students should plan on taking one or two courses each semester (but no more than two). While students progress at different paces, most complete the program in three years. The program cannot be completed in fewer than six semesters (with summer sessions counting as a semester); the maximum amount of time is seven years.

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Student Checklist

workshop

workshop

workshop

workshop

cross-genre workshop

EN506

Elective

Elective

Elective

Elective

EN710

EN711

Total 12 courses/ 36 hours

Public Reading

Service Requirement