

SAMPLE DEGREE PLAN MFA in Writing Program

Below is a sample degree plan for students who begin MFA coursework in Spring Quarter 2018. This plan is based on a student taking two 3-credit online classes per quarter (6 credit hours total per quarter), which is the most common MFA enrollment and is the minimum required per quarter for financial aid/student loan eligibility.

NOTE: Many other degree completion options are available. Students may instead take three online classes per quarter (9 credit hours). If aid/loans are not used, students may take one class per quarter. Four classes may be taken by requesting permission from the program director. Note that online students are required to participate in class on Canvas a minimum of three times per week (as an example of possible coursework: in a literature class, a student may do a reading assignment on Monday, then post a primary response on the discussion board by Wednesday, then post responses to at least five other students' posts over the next few days, and then post a journal entry by Sunday night; our program offers literature, craft, and writing workshop classes online, and our on-campus clusters include all three elements). A balance of class types is recommended (for example, one workshop class and one literature class, to balance the type of coursework required for a quarter). Students taking a 9-credit on-campus cluster may request permission to take one online class along with a cluster. Students receiving the Teacher Grant or the 60+ Grant do not have a minimum credit hour requirement (unless they are also receiving financial aid).

The sample plan below will change depending on the number of credit hours taken each quarter, if a student sits out any quarters, if transfer credits are applied, etc. If you would like graduate **transfer credits** from another university evaluated for credit, email your MFA Advisor to request an evaluation (up to 9 credit hours may be applied toward your MFA). A few weeks after you have begun your first classes, your MFA Advisor will send you an individualized degree plan based on your enrollment. The MFA Advisor for online students whose last names begin with A-L is Beth Mead (bmead@lindenwood.edu); the MFA Advisor for on-campus students and for online students whose last names begin with M-Z is Gillian Parrish (gparrish@lindenwood.edu).

If you choose to declare an **emphasis** (optional), you will email your MFA Advisor with the genre you would like to pursue (fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction). Your Advisor will email you the necessary declaration paperwork, and you will fill it out and email it back as a scan/pdf or a clear, printable photo/jpg. Emphasis students must complete at least 27 credit hours of coursework in the declared genre, including at least one Foundational class. The final 3-credit Thesis must focus primarily on the declared genre. The remaining 18 credit hours (to reach the 48 credit hours required for the MFA) can be taken in any genre. An emphasis is listed on a student's transcript but does not appear on the diploma.

SAMPLE DEGREE PLAN:

The MFA in Writing degree requires 48 credit hours, including the 3-credit Thesis, and a final cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

After taking two 3-credit online classes (6 credit hours total) in SP QTR 18: 6 credit hours

After SU QTR 18: 12

After FA QTR 18: 18

After WIN QTR 19: 24

After SP QTR 19: 30

After SU QTR 19: 36

After FA QTR 19: 42

After WIN QTR 20, taking one class plus the Thesis: 48

Degree completion date: March 30, 2020

[Degree application](#) due in the student portal by December 30, 2019

Eligible to walk in the May 2020 graduation ceremony and read at the May 2020 MFA Reading (both are optional).

Feel free to contact your MFA Advisor with any questions. We hope you enjoy the program!

LINDENWOOD
MFA IN WRITING PROGRAM

