

LU MFA FAQs

Who is the contact person for questions about the MFA in Writing program?

Please contact us at MFAdirector@lindenwood.edu with any questions you have about the MFA program. For university admissions information for fully online students, please contact our online admissions team at OnlineAdmissions@lindenwood.edu.

How do I apply to the MFA Program?

Visit our [Prospective Students](#) page for instructions. The MFA Program does not require the GRE or letters of recommendation. The creative writing sample and statement of purpose are the basis for MFA Program acceptance.

How many students are accepted into the MFA Program each year?

The MFA Program has a rolling admissions policy and is not limited to a specific number of acceptances each year. Each applicant is considered individually, and every creative writing sample is reviewed on its own merit. We are looking for students who clearly demonstrate strong writing skills, an understanding of the craft of creative writing, and a willingness to continue growing as a writer.

Does my undergraduate degree need to be in English?

No. Any completed undergraduate degree is acceptable for MFA applicants. Applicants who would like to review some foundational information on the craft of creative writing are encouraged to read our LU MFA Foundations faculty posts, which are linked on our Current Students page at www.lindenwood.edu/MFA. We also offer a [Fundamentals of Writing for the MFA](#) class, as well as foundational literature and craft classes in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Examples of contemporary literary creative writing can be read on our issue pages for [The Lindenwood Review](#).

Do you accept transfer credits toward the MFA?

Lindenwood University may accept up to 9 credit hours of applicable graduate credit toward the MFA in Writing. Applicants should request a transfer credit evaluation from their admissions representative. Current students who have not yet requested an evaluation should contact their academic advisor.

How long does it take to complete the MFA in Writing?

Degree completion will depend upon the number of credit hours students enroll in each term. The MFA is a 48-hour degree program, including the [Thesis](#) (which is taken in the final quarter of enrollment, either along with coursework or by itself), and degree completion can take from one and a half years to five years. Students work with their academic advisor to determine their degree plans.

How many classes should I take each term?

MFA students may take up to three classes per term, either online or on-campus. The majority of our students take two classes per term. We offer five 8-week terms per academic year. For financial aid/student loan eligibility, a minimum of 6 credit hours (two classes) must be taken within 16 weeks (across two 8-week terms in fall and spring). Each online class requires students to participate on Canvas a minimum of three times per week, so it is up to students to determine how many classes will work best with their schedule.

What is the tuition rate for the program? Is there an out-of-state fee?

Tuition rates are available on the [Tuition and Fees page](#). There is no additional cost for out-of-state students. The MFA in Writing is a 48-credit-hour program. See the FAQ below for information about grants.

*What **grants** are available? Do you offer Teaching Assistantships or scholarships?*

The MFA Program offers the three grants listed below (Teacher Grants and 60+ Grant). Lindenwood University does not offer MFA-specific scholarships or Teaching Assistantships; however, we offer [Teaching Resources](#) for our students, and our [Fundamentals of Writing for the MFA](#) class includes preparatory information for students who plan to teach after graduation. For information about any other grants or scholarships that the university may offer, contact Admissions at 636-949-4933 or Financial Aid at 636-949-4923, or contact OnlineAdmissions@lindenwood.edu.

- Teacher Grant: The MFA in Writing Program offers a grant of \$60 off per credit hour for teachers who currently teach at the elementary, middle school, or high school level.
- Community College Teacher Grant: This grant offers \$40 off per credit hour for current instructors at community colleges.
- 60+ Grant: This grant offers a 50% tuition grant for students age 60 or over.

Are MFA students required to declare an emphasis area? What courses are required?

LU MFA students are not required to declare an emphasis; however, [emphases](#) in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction are available as options for the degree. MFA in Writing students may take coursework in a variety of genres, or they may focus their coursework in a particular genre. Students may choose the courses that work best for them each term. Emphasis students must take at least one required Foundational class from the emphasis list for their genre. The Thesis is required by all students in the final quarter of the program. Our program offers a variety of classes and specialized focus areas in poetry, literary fiction, genre fiction, the novel, creative nonfiction, narrative journalism, scriptwriting, and literary journal editing. Our curriculum is available [here](#).

How do I drop a class? What is the charge for withdrawing?

Students must email their academic advisor with a withdrawal request, including the last date of attendance (for online students, this is the last date you accessed Canvas), and then the advisor will fill out the paperwork to withdraw you from class. The drop policy, including information about fees that are charged based on your date of withdrawal, is detailed in the [catalog](#). There is no tuition charge if a student who drops a class has never attended a class meeting (or if an online student has never posted in that class on Canvas).

How do I view my grades/schedule/transcripts/account ledger/student email?

Student grades are not mailed out. Grades, along with other student information, including class schedule, unofficial transcripts, and account ledger, can be viewed through your Student Portal. Student email is accessed through a student's Lindenwood email account via Office 365. New students will have access to their student portal and email after they have registered for classes.

What if I don't see my question listed here?

Visit our website and info webpages linked at www.lindenwood.edu/MFAwriting for more program information, or contact us at MFAdirector@lindenwood.edu for program questions or at OnlineAdmissions@lindenwood.edu for university admissions questions for fully online students.
