

Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Wilkes University Course Sequence

All students follow the course sequence below. The program administrators register students for these courses, one term at a time, unless a student elects to take a semester off. Each term is 9 credits (the minimum for full-time status according to FAFSA), except for one of the final MFA terms (depending on when the student chooses to take CW614: Revision Term), which will require 12 credits.

Residency courses (consisting of workshops, craft lessons, panels, and readings) are taken either in-person (during the first full week in January or the third week in June) or via the online "Weekender" program (the first weekend of the residency followed by two weekends in late Jan/early Feb or late June/early July). Each residency or Weekender is succeeded by an online semester-long mentorship, either in the spring semester (beginning in late January and ending in mid-May) or fall semester (beginning in late August and ending in mid-December). The Weekender option is available only for the MA residencies (CW 501, 510, 516, and 525), but not for the MFA residencies (CW 616 and CW 650).

First Term (MA)

CW 501R: Foundations of Creative Writing (First Residency or Weekender, January or June, 3 cr.)

Any 2 of the following semester-long, online courses (students choose by the end of the first residency), with 1-4 students per class:

- CW 502: Writing Fiction (3 cr.)
- CW 503: Writing Poetry (3 cr.)
- CW 504: Writing Screenplays (3 cr.)
- CW 505: Writing Plays (3 cr.)
- CW 506: Writing Nonfiction (3 cr.)

At the end of the first semester, students choose the genre in which they will write their thesis project (e.g. a book manuscript, play, or screenplay), and a mentor in that genre with whom they will study for the next two semesters. Students choose from the following genres: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Screenwriting, Playwriting, and Spoken Word.

2nd Term (MA)

CW 510R: Planning the Writing Life (Second Residency or Weekender, January or June, 3 cr.)

CW 512: Genre and Context (semester-long online mentorship, reading intensive, 3 cr.)

CW 514: Drafting Project (semester-long online mentorship, thesis draft, writing intensive, 3 cr.)

3rd Term (MA)

CW 516R: Project/Thesis Plan (Third Residency or Weekender, January or June, 3 cr.)

CW 520: Final Project (semester-long online mentorship, completed thesis manuscript, 6 cr.)

(CW 530: Optional "Continuous Registration" or "Independent Study" course in any genre, 3-6 cr.)

4th Term (MA/MFA)

CW 525R: Masters Capstone (Fourth Residency or Weekender, January or June, final MA residency, 3 cr.)
MA Degree Completed (30 credits min.)

CW 612: Literary Analysis (semester-long online mentorship, reading intensive, 6 cr.)

CW 614: Revision Term (semester-long online mentorship, writing intensive, taken in 4th or 5th term, 3 cr.)

5th Term (MFA)

CW 616R: Writing in Education/Publishing (Fifth Residency, January or June, practicum preparation, 3 cr.)

CW 620: Practicum (semester-long online mentorship with in-person or online internship, 6 cr.)

(CW 630: Optional "Continuous Registration" or "Independent Study" course in any genre, 3-6 cr.)

Final MFA Residency

CW 650: The Professional Writer (Sixth Residency, January or June, two-day workshop, closing banquet, awards ceremony, 1 cr.)

MFA Degree Completed (49 credits min.)