

Graduate Program in English • Barbara Moll Grant Hall, Room 321
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Combined B.A./M.F.A. Program

Bachelor of Arts in English & Master of Fine Arts in Creative and Professional Writing.

The Department of Language, Literature, Culture, and Writing now offers an accelerated B.A./M.F.A. program that allows high-achieving students to complete a B.A. degree in English and an M.F.A. in Creative & Professional Writing in five years.

The Bachelor of Arts in English gives students a strong foundation in literary and cultural analysis as well as in various forms of writing—from the critical to the creative. Students read great works of the literature while developing their own writing skills, both practical and innovative.

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative and Professional Writing hones skills in poetry, novel writing, short fiction, memoir, literary biography, film/theater scripts, cultural studies, and professional writing. The program includes intensive writing workshops, contemporary literature courses, and a pedagogy and/or an internship component, and culminates with a 4-credit thesis project—a substantial manuscript of publishable quality. The M.F.A.'s rigorous course of study prepares students for a wide variety of careers, including teaching, publishing and editing, copywriting, public relations, and professional nonfiction writing.

How It Works

Students completing the B.A./M.F.A. program will complete a traditional undergraduate experience with 36 undergraduate credits in English and 120 credits overall, applied toward their baccalaureate; they will also complete all the M.F.A. degree requirements, including the 4-credit thesis project, that are required of our traditional M.F.A. students.

This B.A./M.F.A. program allows students to double count 12 graduate credits, using those credits for both their undergraduate and graduate degrees; in other words, students taking the accelerated degree program reduce the number of baccalaureate courses by taking four graduate courses in their senior year. Students save the tuition costs of four courses (12 credits) of study and make a huge stride toward their M.F.A. degree even while they are finishing up their bachelor's.

HOW TO APPLY

Current WPU Students

1. Juniors with 75 or more credits overall may apply if they are on track to complete 90 credits overall and 24 credits in English before the start of their senior year. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.2 overall as well as in their English major courses at the time of application. Students accepted to the accelerated B.A. /M.F.A. program must complete 90 credits with a GPA of 3.2 overall as well as in English major courses prior to enrolling in graduate level courses during the senior year.

2. As part of the application process, students must submit **two letters of recommendation** attesting to their writing skills; **a ten-page writing sample** in the genre in which they intend to concentrate; and a 750 to 1000-word **statement of purpose** discussing their writing interests, reading influences and career-related goals.

3. In order to be fully matriculated in the M.F.A., students must complete their B.A. degree with a GPA of 3.0 or greater and no grade less than a "B" in graduate courses taken as an undergraduate.

Incoming First-Year Students

4. In order to be admitted as a freshman to the B.A. /M.F.A. program, a student must meet the same test score and high school GPA requirements as for the Honors College, submit two letters of recommendation, statement of purpose and a 10-page writing sample. Students admitted as freshmen benefit from special programming, advising and mentoring specifically designed to prepare them for the MFA experience.

In order to take graduate courses in the senior year, students admitted to the combined program as freshmen must achieve a 3.2 GPA and complete 24 credits of the English major courses by the time they have completed 90 credits. In order to be fully matriculated in the M.F.A., students must complete their B.A. degree with a GPA of 3.0 or greater and no grade less than a "B" in graduate courses taken as an undergraduate.

Transfer Students

5. Transfer students may be admitted provisionally into the B.A. /M.F.A. program with a 3.2 GPA overall and in English major courses. Transfer students must have completed at least 12 credits of English courses transferable to the WPU English major in order to be provisionally admitted to the B.A. /M.F.A. program. Transfer students may then apply as in 1, 2, and 3 above.

Other

6. Failure to meet the admissions criteria in any of the categories above does not exclude a student from applying directly to the M.F.A. program upon completion of an appropriate bachelor's degree.

For more information contact: parrasj@wpunj.edu or visit the webpage: www.wpunj.edu/MFA