

# University of Houston Creative Writing Program

## Requirements - M.F.A. in Creative Writing

*Admission is competitive and applicants must satisfy the requirements of both the Department of English and the Creative Writing Program. Primary emphasis will be placed on the creative manuscript in all applications. Approximately 8 – 10 students in the genres of poetry and fiction each and 2 – 4 students in creative non-fiction are admitted each year. These numbers are inclusive for both the M.F.A. and Ph.D. programs. For further information, call 713-743-3013 or 713-743-3014.*

### Prerequisites

A bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 grade point average in the last 60 hours attempted. (Exceptions to the GPA requirement may be made if the creative manuscript shows exceptional merit.)

12 hours of advanced English (courses above a sophomore level) with an average of 3.0 or better.

Two years of college level study in one foreign language **or** a score of 450 on the GSFLT or otherwise demonstrating reading knowledge of a foreign language. Students who do not meet this prerequisite can still be admitted to the program, but they will be required to develop a competency in a foreign language while pursuing the M.F.A. The foreign language competency can be met in several ways. Please see the discussion of foreign language requirements on the English Graduate Studies website.

### Application Requirements

#### The Application Checklist

#### The online application number

**Two (2) official transcripts** (sealed in the issuing envelope) from every institution of higher education attended.

**Three (3) letters of recommendation** from teachers or professionals familiar with your writing and academic skills. Letters must be in sealed, signed envelopes from the recommenders or they may be sent via Interfolio.

**Official GRE (General exam) scores.** Official ETS copy of the report is required and should be sent to the University of Houston/University Park: institution code **R6870**. No department code is needed and indicating one will slow down the application process. **Note:** Scores take 4 – 6 weeks to reach the university for official verification. Please plan your test date accordingly. Applicant without GRE scores will not be offered admission.

**A photocopy of your GRE score report** (sent to you by ETS). We must have a photocopy because we will not receive your official scores in our Program office until after the application review process is complete.

**An original creative manuscript** (maximum 10 pages of poetry or 20 – 25 pages of fiction or non-fiction). Fiction and non-fiction manuscripts should be double-spaced, on numbered, single-sided pages: poetry can be single-paced and formatted as desired. All manuscripts should be stapled but not bound or presented in folders or notebooks. **Note:** Submitting more than the recommended amount is strongly discouraged and could adversely affect the evaluation process.

**A statement of intent.** In 1,000 or fewer words, state why you wish to pursue graduate study in creative writing; which writers in your genre you are reading and their import to you and your work; and whether you have taught before and intend to pursue teaching as a career.

**Awards, fellowships and publication.** List any to date on a separate sheet of paper.

**Your \$50 application fee (\$75 for international applicants)** in the form of check or money order payable to the University of Houston **if you've not paid via credit card online with the application.**

**Do not send application materials to the Office of Admissions. All materials should be sent by the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to:**

**University of Houston  
Creative Writing Program  
229 Roy Cullen Building  
Houston, TX 77204-3015**