



# RANDOLPH COLLEGE

*MFA in Creative Writing*

## Curriculum

### Program:

### Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

### Program Overview:

The Randolph College Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree requires the successful completion of four semesters, five residency sessions, and a minimum of 60 credit hours. The MFA represents mastery of creative writing and contemporary letters as demonstrated through creative work, literary analysis, and applied criticism.

Each semester, students complete regular packets of new work, including critical analysis and original writing, and provide critical responses to the work of their peers. The third semester session requires the additional completion of a substantial essay incorporating applied criticism and craft analysis, as well as theory, publishing, literacy, and/or pedagogy.

In this low-residency model, accomplished writers serve as faculty mentors, working one-on-one with students, providing regular feedback and direction on the craft of writing and the contribution of literary citizenship.

Students earning an MFA complete a thesis project: a book-length work of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction.

### Course Overview:

To complete the program, students must complete four semesters and five residencies. A residency session is required to begin each course.

The program begins with the Workshop I semester (601, 603, or 605) then the Workshop II semester (641, 643, or 645).

The second workshop will be in the same genre as the first workshop.\*

The two semesters of genre workshop must be completed prior to taking ENGL 670, Creative Writing Workshop III & Applied Criticism. After successful completion of 670, students are eligible to take the Thesis Workshop, ENGL 690, which requires an opening residency to start a thesis semester, as well as a graduation residency at the completion of the thesis.

In a typical semester, students will read 12-20 books or their equivalent, produce craft-based analytical writing, draft and revise original creative work (3 to 6 short stories, or a novella or equivalent sections of a novel; or 15 to 20 poems; or 3 to 6 short nonfiction works, or equivalent sections of a book), maintain an annotated bibliography of completed reading list, provide critical analysis of readings, and respond to directions and questions posed by the mentor.

## SEMESTER 1

ENGL 601 - Poetry Workshop I	15 credits
ENGL 603 - Fiction Workshop I	15 credits
ENGL 605 - Nonfiction Workshop I	15 credits

## SEMESTER 2

ENGL 641 - Poetry Workshop II	15 credits
ENGL 643 - Fiction Workshop II	15 credits
ENGL 645 - Nonfiction Workshop II	15 credits

## SEMESTER 3

ENGL 670 - Creative Writing Workshop III & Applied Criticism	15 credits
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## SEMESTER 4

ENGL 690 - Thesis Workshop**	15 credits
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\*In rare circumstances, students working on hybrid texts may be allowed to complete a Workshop II course in a genre different than the genre they chose for Workshop I.

\*\* In consultation with the faculty and approval of the program director, students may enroll in any course more than once with the exception of ENGL 670, which may only be completed once for credit. Only one course can be enrolled in at a time, and taking a course again requires students to enroll and attend an opening residency (and a closing residency in the case of the thesis). Regardless of additional coursework, all students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credits and a minimum of one course from each semester's designation.

### Degree Requirements:

Randolph College confers the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree.

Requirements for the degrees are:

1. A minimum of 60 credit hours of graduate MFA coursework must be completed.
2. Students may transfer one semester's credits (15 credits, including successful completion of one residency) from another low-residency MFA program for Workshop I (601,603, or 605) credit. Students may transfer 15 credits from a traditional-residency MFA program for Workshop I (601,603, or 605) credit.
3. All requirements, including transfer courses, must be completed within a period of six calendar years.
4. The student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (rounded) both for all courses taken for a grade and for all courses counted toward major requirements. Only one course with a grade of C+ or below will count toward degree requirements. Students may appeal to the Board of Review.

## Course Descriptions:

### ENGL 601 - Poetry Workshop I

15 credits

This poetry workshop introduces students to graduate-level poetry writing, reading, and practical criticism. The semester begins with a ten-day residency of lectures, discussions, panels, workshops, and readings. Students finish the residency with an individualized study plan for a semester of reading deeply, writing creatively, and revising intentionally, all under the one-on-one guidance of a faculty mentor.

### ENGL 603 - Fiction Workshop I

15 credits

This fiction workshop introduces students to graduate-level fiction writing, reading, and practical criticism. The semester begins with a ten-day residency of lectures, discussions, panels, workshops, and readings. Students finish the residency with an individualized study plan for a semester of reading deeply, writing creatively, and revising intentionally, all under the one-on-one guidance of a faculty mentor.

### ENGL 605 - Nonfiction Workshop I

15 credits

This nonfiction workshop introduces students to graduate-level literary nonfiction writing, reading, and practical criticism. The semester begins with a ten-day residency of lectures, discussions, panels, workshops, and readings. Students finish the residency with an individualized study plan for a semester of reading deeply, writing creatively, and revising intentionally, all under the one-on-one guidance of a faculty mentor.

### ENGL 641 - Poetry Workshop II

15 credits

This second workshop builds upon the student's progress in the first poetry workshop, deepening their understanding and experience of craft, criticism, research, revision, voice, and imagery. As in the first workshop, the semester begins with a ten-day, preparatory residency and continues with one-on-one mentorship. This second semester adds the additional requirement of regular peer workshopping and explorations in contemporary publishing.

### ENGL 643 - Fiction Workshop II

15 credits

This second workshop builds upon the student's progress in the first fiction workshop, deepening their understanding and experience of craft, criticism, research, revision, voice, and imagery. As in the first workshop, the semester begins with a ten-day, preparatory residency and continues with one-on-one mentorship. This second semester adds the additional requirement of regular peer workshopping and explorations in contemporary publishing.

### ENGL 645 - Nonfiction Workshop II

15 credits

This second workshop builds upon the student's progress in the first nonfiction workshop, deepening their understanding and experience of craft, criticism, research, revision, voice, and imagery. As in the first workshop, the semester begins with a ten-day, preparatory residency and continues with one-on-one mentorship. This second semester adds the additional requirement of regular peer workshopping and explorations in contemporary publishing.

ENGL 670 - Creative Writing Workshop III & Applied Criticism 15 credits

The applied criticism semester builds upon the previous genre workshops, requiring an initial residency session and regular creative writing, reading, and workshopping with one-on-one mentorship. The major project of the third semester is the completion of a substantial essay incorporating applied criticism and craft analysis, as well as theory, publishing, literacy, and/or pedagogy.

ENGL 690 - Thesis Workshop 15 credits

The thesis requires the completion of a book-length work of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction. The thesis semester begins with a preparatory residency and concludes with a graduation residency in which students present a craft lecture and a public reading. In the event that the thesis shows progress but would benefit from additional work, a thesis semester may be repeated.

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Randolph College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). This program is currently in process of approval by SACSCOC.