

CURRICULUM CHANGE PROPOSAL

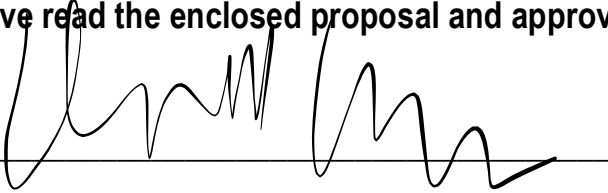
APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Readers of Thesis for Online MFA Students

College: Liberal Arts Department: Creative Writing

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Daniel Chacón

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



Signature

9-17-19

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Crystal Herman

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature

Date

COLLEGE DEAN – Denis O'Hearn

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature

Date

GRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: Sept. 17th, 2019

From: Sylvia Aguilar-Zéleny, Dir. of the Online MFA, Department of Creative Writing

Through: Daniel Chacón, Dept. of Creative Writing

Through: Denis O'Hearn, College of Liberal Arts

To: Chair, Graduate Council

Proposal Title: Readers of Thesis for Online MFA Students

Our Online MFA in Creative Writing is growing, we have 70+ students that live all over the country, we have had, or currently have, students that live in countries like Spain, Japan, Dubai, Costa Rica. It is important to address that our students come from different fields, that often have nothing to do with English or Writing, and this is their first opportunity to learn about writing and craft.

To graduate, all students need to defend their thesis in a three-member supervising committee; two professors must be from our department and one from a different department or even university. Now, because, as said before, our students come from different fields, they often do not know who to turn to for third reader. Sometimes we are able to help them find readers from UTEP or in writing fellows from other universities, but this is becoming more and more difficult.

As a program, we are planning to continue our growth and reach, to run smoothly we are interested in changing the catalog policy for the Online MFA. We are requesting that you approve a change in the committee, and move from three to two members and both from the Creative Writing Department.

M.F.A. in Creative Writing

Minimum Admission Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
2. Transcripts according to the requirements of the Graduate School.
3. Three letters of recommendation.
4. A writing sample in the genre of emphasis: eight to 10 poems; 20 pages of prose, playwriting, essay, or screenplay.
5. A statement of purpose.

The admission factors will be reviewed holistically to assess the potential of the applicant. The successful applicant would typically have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher that demonstrates focus on academics in a field that requires critical thinking and creativity, a writing sample in the genre of emphasis that illustrates the applicant's ability and potential, a personal statement that demonstrates maturity and commitment to a career related to creative writing as well as willingness to interact with diverse cultural backgrounds, and three letters of recommendation from supporting faculty or advisors who can serve as judges of the applicant's competence and commitment.

Degree Plan Options for Online MFA in Creative Writing

In addition, [ENGL 5345](#) Writing to Learn must be taken by students whose teaching assistantship falls within the English Department. Students with a teaching ~~assistantship~~ assistantship in Languages and Linguistics must take [LING 5370](#) Study in Language.

The thesis will consist of a book-length manuscript of original fiction or poetry, play, collection of essays, or screenplay, accompanied by a critical preface.

Each candidate is required to submit a thesis proposal and a sample of the thesis-in-progress to his/her Thesis Director and the Director of the Online MFA for approval before registering for CRW 5398 Thesis 1. Thesis 1 is a workshop class, and the professor, as well as the thesis director will supervise the student's progress.

The student will then take CRW 5399 Thesis 2 with his/her Thesis director and will complete the manuscript, a preface, and prepare for defense. Thesis will be defended before a two-member committee composed by the Thesis director and a member from our Faculty. Thesis must be defended orally.

The thesis will consist of a book-length manuscript of original fiction or poetry, play, group of essays, or screenplay, accompanied by a critical preface." Each candidate is required during the first semester of thesis hours to submit a thesis proposal and a sample of the thesis in progress to the thesis committee. The thesis will be prepared under the direction of a three-member supervising committee and will be defended orally.