New England College

School of Graduate and Professional Studies

Master of Arts in Professional Writing

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies removes obstacles to educational advancement and opens new pathways for those seeking professional development and personal enrichment. We are New England's leader in quality graduate programs offered through alternative delivery models.

Master of Arts in Professional Writing is the online program for aspiring nonfiction writers, editors, and new media innovators who desire to improve and strengthen their writing ability for professional advancement.

"The Professional Writing program is creative yet practical. Not only am I learning how to be a better writer, I'm also learning how to do the job of a professional writer in a variety of settings. What do I, as a professional writer, need to know to do my job well? That's the question the program is helping me to answer." —*Kemlo Aki, student*

Program Information

The MA in Professional Writing is an online program for aspiring writers and editors. This 36-credit program enhances writing and publication skills, enables students to develop a comprehensive portfolio of work, and prepares students to write in both new and traditional media.

About the Curriculum

Program coursework integrates the theoretical foundations of rhetoric, communication and professional practice with continuous skill development. Each course asks students to apply their knowledge and writing and editing skills to cutting-edge communication challenges. Students also gain an understanding of the careers and market needs in the emerging field of professional writing.

Core Courses (all courses are 4 credits, unless noted)

- Professional Writing and Rhetoric
- Research Methods
- Editing in the Professions
- Writing for the Media and Public Relations
- The New Media
- Business and Technical Communication
- Internship in Professional Writing *OR* Special Topics in Professional Writing
- Portfolio in Professional Writing
- Thesis in Professional Writing

Career Outcomes

The MA in Professional Writing supports career advancement in editing and publishing, public relations, advertising, communication management, technical writing, new media writing, and copywriting.

Application Requirements

To apply, submit a NEC Graduate School application, a current résumé, a personal statement, official college transcripts and two letters of reference. No GRE scores are required. Applications will be accepted until the cohort is full. Financial Aid is available.

Financial Aid Information

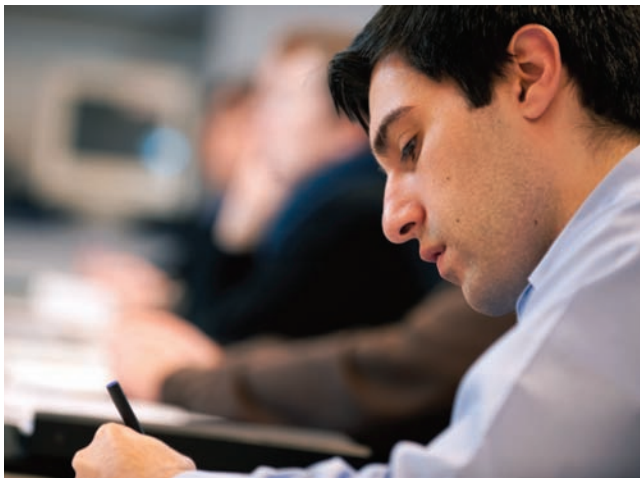
For comprehensive information on financial aid for graduate school, visit **www.nec.edu/graduate-and-professional-studies/graduate-financial-services**

Admission

For more information, contact:
Mark Watman, Program Director
mwatman@nec.edu

or

Graduate Admission Office
603.428.2252
graduateadmission@nec.edu



New England College

Student Financial Services

Financial Assistance Application Procedures

In order to be a Federal loan borrower, there are requirements you must complete.

Here is the process:

1. FAFSA

- Must be completed every academic year that you are enrolled and wish to utilize federal aid
- Go to **www.pin.ed.gov** and apply for a Federal PIN, if you do not have one or can't recall what it may be
  - Your PIN is used to E-Sign many school related documents, including your FAFSA—remember your number and keep it safe
- Go to **www.fafsa.ed.gov** and click on the link to complete the FAFSA for the appropriate academic year (NEC school code: 002579):
  - Academic years run from July 1st to June 30th of the following year
  - FAFSAs expire on June 30th
  - Must have FULL LEGAL NAME AND correct social security number
  - Must be E-SIGNED, for FAFSA to be valid and by accepted by NEC
- If the Department of Education selects your Student Aid Report (SAR—Your FAFSA confirmation) you will need the following items:
  - SIGNED Federal Tax Returns and schedules (Tax year used to complete the FAFSA in question)
  - Federal W2s for everyone on the federal tax return
  - "Be Proactive" and verify that your SAR has no further holds that may prevent your funding from releasing to your account
- After you complete and submit a FAFSA it takes at least:
  - 1–3 business days for the Department of Education to process your submission
  - 1–3 weeks for the Department of Education to create a transmission of your information to be sent to the school(s) of your choice, for downloading and to be imported into the school's system

2. NEC Graduate Financial Aid Application

- Can always be located on the Student Financial Services section of the NEC website **www.nec.edu**
  - Click on the Student Financial Services link
  - Then the Applying for Financial Assistance link
  - Then the Application Form & Instructions link
  - Lastly, the Graduate, NEC+ and Online BA Students link, for the year you're attending
- Must be renewed every time the FAFSA is renewed
- Must contain the appropriate signatures to be accepted

3. Award Letters

- Award letters will be created once all necessary preliminary paperwork is received
  - Preliminary paperwork consists of:
    - FAFSA
    - NEC Graduate Financial Aid application
  - If either of these things are missing—we cannot produce an award
- Once the award is completed, a letter explaining the award, will be mailed out
- Students may always view their awards immediately, online via their MyNec account
  - Once you have your official six digit NEC PIN, you may log into your MyNEC account anytime at: **https://mynec.nec.edu/pls/proddad/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin**

4. Entrance Loan Counseling

- **https://studentloans.gov**
  - Print your confirmation page for your records, once you complete your counseling

5. Federal Stafford Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)

- A Federal Stafford Loan is *different* from the Graduate "PLUS" loan, which has a HIGHER interest rate than Unsubsidized loans. Don't make a mistake and apply for the PLUS loan in haste! It will only delay your funding.
- You will need your FAFSA PIN number to complete your Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Plan on approximately 30 minutes to complete your Master Promissory Note (MPN) at **https://studentloans.gov**
- It is a FEDERAL requirement that we wait until after your add/drop period to begin the process of requesting your funds.
- After the certification process and after your add/drop period, it will take (approximately) 30 minutes for the loan to disburse to your student account.

6. Exit Loan Counseling

- Federal loan borrowers are required to complete Exit Loan Counseling when they have a break in enrollment or separation (ex. Graduate from program) from their institution.
- **https://studentloans.gov**
- Print the confirmation for your records