



New England College School of Graduate and Professional Studies



Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry)



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.

The New England College Low Residency MFA Program in Poetry offers a rigorous yet innovative focus on the art of poetry. Our outstanding faculty is dedicated to mentoring each individual student according to his or her interests and aesthetic. Concentrated studies are offered in performance, translation, and new media poetics. Core faculty include: **Carol Frost, James Harms, Brian Henry, Ilya Kaminsky, Paula McLain, Malena Morling, Tara Rebele, and Eleni Sikelianos.**

“Never in my life have I been around such an open, loving, strong community, and by that I mean faculty, staff, and students. I immediately felt welcomed and continue to. I had an initial apprehension that distance would prevent connecting with peers and teachers through sharing and giving feedback. I have been resoundingly shown otherwise. I continue to have a wonderful active NEC experience.” —*Jillian Mukavetz, class of 2012*

“The program at NEC has been to die for: supportive and extraordinarily perceptive faculty, with an individually-tailored curriculum, it's all I could want.” —*Kent Maynard, class of 2010*

Program Information

The New England College Low Residency MFA in Poetry is a four-semester program (64 credits) with a final fifth residency devoted to manuscript preparation and professional development. Twice a year, students attend five and ten-day on-campus residencies in January and June followed by a semester of one-on-one work with a faculty mentor conducted via mail or email.

During each residency poets participate in a rigorous schedule of writing workshop. Workshops include faculty lectures and readings, and afternoon electives in performance; new media, translation or prose. Students also meet with their assigned faculty mentors to design their study plans for the following semester of one-on-one work.

The semester-long projects during the academic year adhere closely to the individual study plans that faculty mentors and students have developed together during the previous residency. In addition to their creative work each semester, students are expected to read up to twenty books of poetry and criticism, write eight short critical papers, and memorize one poem for each

of the four packet periods. (Students recite all four of their memorized poems during the following residency.) Every three weeks faculty respond to student packets with extensive comments and suggestions. Study plans establish both curricular content and deadlines each semester, providing a clearly designed individualized course of study, as well as a contract between each student and faculty mentor. As suggested above, a total of four packets are exchanged each semester—every three weeks—with responses from faculty occurring no later than one week after the receipt of the packet.

Application Requirements

- NEC Graduate School Application
- Official copy of transcripts of all postsecondary institutions attended sent in sealed envelopes, signed or stamped across the seal
- List of the ten most influential books read in relation to your creative work as a writer
- Two letters of recommendation that attest to your professional ability and your qualifications for graduate study
- 1–3 page critical essay on a particular poem of your choice other than your own work
- Typewritten manuscript of 10 pages of recent poetry
- 2–3 page personal statement citing your literary influences, an assessment of your writing in terms of its strengths and weaknesses, your experience with critical evaluation of your work and what you hope to gain from participating in the MFA, Poetry program
- Current resumé

Financial Aid Information

For comprehensive information on financial aid for graduate school, visit www.nec.edu/sgps/financial-services

Admission

For more information, contact:
Graduate Admission Office
603.428.2252
graduateadmission@nec.edu