

Application *for* Admission

Division of Graduate Studies



WESTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Westconn!

Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

Thank you for your request for information regarding graduate programs at Western Connecticut State University. We are enclosing this application for graduate admission and some other literature for your review.

Please arrange to have one official transcript from each college or university you have attended sent directly to the Division of Graduate Studies Office, WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

If after reading the materials you have specific questions, please feel free to: call the Division of Graduate Studies office at (203) 837-8244, fax your questions to (203) 837-8326, or e-mail me at durnine@wcsu.edu. I would be more than happy to discuss any aspect of our programs with you.

You should ensure that WestConn has received your transcripts by calling (203) 837-8244, prior to arranging an appointment with the appropriate graduate program coordinator.

Thank you for your interest in WestConn. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,



Ellen D. Durnin, Ph.D.
Dean of Graduate Studies & External Programs
(203) 837-8244

What do I need to apply to these programs?

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Master of Health Administration: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA* of at least a 2.5 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- GMAT, GRE or MAT test
- Two letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Master of Science: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- GMAT, GRE, LSAT or MAT test
- Current resume
- Two letters of recommendation
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

MATH & SCIENCE

Master of Arts: *Biological & Environmental Science, Earth & Planetary Science, English, History, Mathematics*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA* of at least a 2.5 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

ART

Master of Fine Arts Options in: *Painting or Illustration*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Portfolio Review
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

EDUCATION

Master of Science Options in: *Curriculum, English, Instructional Technology, Mathematics, Reading, Special Education*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Valid teacher certification
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

COUNSELING

Master of Science: *Options in Community Counseling, School Counseling*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Letter of application stating the reasons for entering the program
- Written personal history or resume
- Three letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956
- School Counseling (*see Graduate Catalog for additional admission requirements*)

MUSIC

Master of Science: *Music Education*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Combined Undergraduate GPA* of at least a 2.8 from **all** completed coursework
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Valid teacher certification
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

NURSING

Master of Science: *Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Nurse Practitioner*

Post-Masters Certification: *Adult Nurse Practitioner*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- A copy of your RN license
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Written personal history or resume
- MAT test
- One letter of reference from an administrator and/or employer
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

BUSINESS

Master of Business Administration: *General*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee.
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- Written personal history or resume
- GMAT test
- Two letters of reference from administrators and/or employees
- Immunization records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing

- Completed Graduate Application and \$50 fee
- Completed MFA Application
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
- Additional forms – download from MFA Web site or request from MFA coordinator
- Interview with program coordinator
- Signed program sheet from coordinator
- C.V. or resume
- Writing sample
- Application essay
- Immunization Records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

NON-MATRICULATED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Note: *Students can only be non-matriculated for one semester and are limited to taking only six credits as a non-matriculant. After one semester, students must matriculate in order to enroll in additional classes. Permission to take a course is based on available space in the desired course of interest.*

- Completed Application and \$50 fee
- Official transcripts from **all** colleges/universities attended
- Meet the Undergraduate GPA* requirements for the course of interest
- Satisfy the prerequisites for the course of interest
- RN license for Nursing Courses
- Teacher Certification required for Education and Educational Psychology courses
- Approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator may be needed in some situations
- Immunization Records if born after Dec. 31, 1956

* GPA calculation includes all grades from completed undergraduate coursework at all universities and colleges attended – whether matriculated or not. WCSU considers all undergraduate coursework taken at other universities, including courses that have been retaken or courses that may have been deleted from GPA computation for any reason.

It is the student's responsibility to understand and meet any GPA requirements before registering for any graduate course.*

Enrolling in graduate courses as a non-matriculated student does not guarantee acceptance in a graduate program at Western Connecticut State University.

Part-time Students' Immunization Form

State of Connecticut Mandated Immunization History

Note: Other legal documentation may be acceptable

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Sex: _____

Social Security # _____

Each entering student born after Dec. 31, 1956 must meet the State Mandated Measles/Rubella Law, Public Act 89-90. The following criteria are necessary to comply with this act:

Measles

Dates for two separate doses of measles vaccines must be submitted. Proof of these two immunizations must fall within the following guidelines:

Immunization with live measles vaccines administered as follows:

- first dose on or after 12 months of age and given in or after 1969
 - second dose given on or after Jan. 1, 1980
- or*
- serological evidence of immunity, laboratory verification of blood titre required with a copy of laboratory result

Rubella (German Measles)

Immunization with rubella vaccine on or after June 9, 1967 or serological evidence of immunity with a copy of the laboratory result

*** Proof of graduation from a Connecticut high school in or after 1999 will also be accepted as proof of immunity for measles and rubella.*

	MONTH	DAY	YEAR										
Measles or MMR 1st Dose Given after 12 months of age and given in or after 1969	_____	_____	_____	Laboratory Verification of Blood Titres A copy of the actual lab results or a health provider's signature verifying the results are required.									
OR													
Measles or MMR 2nd Dose Given on or after Jan. 1, 1980	_____	_____	_____	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">DATE</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">RESULTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Measles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Rubella</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> </table>		DATE	RESULTS	Measles	_____	_____	Rubella	_____	_____
	DATE	RESULTS											
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Rubella (German measles) Given on or after June 9, 1967	_____	_____	_____	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provider's Signature</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> </table>			Provider's Signature	_____	Date	_____			
Provider's Signature	_____												
Date	_____												

*** Please Note: If at any time, you become a full time student, you will then be required to complete the Connecticut State University Confidential Health Form. Rev 4/06*

Graduate Application

(Page 1 of 2)

A \$50 application fee is required. Checks should be made payable to Western Connecticut State University. Mail completed application with your check to WCSU, Division of Graduate Studies, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

_____ I plan to begin the program (check one): Fall 20__ Spring 20__
DATE OF APPLICATION

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL)

MAIDEN NAME

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY, STATE)

STREET ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE)

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Citizenship: US Citizen Permanent Visa F-1 Student Visa F-2 Student Visa Other Visa Status

Alien Information: Do you hold an Alien Registration Receipt Card (Green Card)?

No Yes, please enclose photocopy of both sides of your Green Card. Alien No. _____

EMPLOYER NAME

EMPLOYER ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

EMPLOYER TELEPHONE (INCLUDE AREA CODE)

Type of Application: First Time Re-Entry to WestConn (Division of Graduate Studies) Transfer*

* If transferring, from what school will you be transferring credits? _____

Have you ever taken a course at WestConn? Yes No If yes, was it Undergraduate Graduate

How did you first hear about WestConn? Friend/family College fair Radio ad Other _____

DATA (optional—for research use only)

Sex: Male Female

Ethnic Group: American Indian or Alaska Native Black or African American White Two or more races
 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander Hispanic of any race Asian Do not wish to reply

EDUCATION: Indicate the college you earned your bachelors degree from and the year of graduation _____

List all other colleges and universities attended:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME	DATES ATTENDED	SPECIALIZATION	DEGREE (IF EARNED)	DEGREE DATE

(If needed, attach a separate sheet to indicate more colleges)

Graduate Application

(Page 2 of 2)

Please indicate the degree program that you are applying to:

M.S. DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Education
 - Options (Choose One):
 - Curriculum
 - Instructional Technology
 - Reading
 - Special Education
 - English
 - Mathematics
- Music Education
- Counseling Options (Choose One):
 - Community
 - School Counseling
- Justice Administration
- Nursing
 - Options (Choose One):
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Adult Nurse Practitioner

NON-DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Post-Master's Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification
- School Counseling Certification
- Teacher Certification
 - Options (Choose One):
 - Elementary Education with Subject area _____
 - Secondary Education with Subject area _____
 - Music Education
 - Health Education
- Non-Matriculated Status

Each program has different criteria for admittance. Students must fulfill all criteria before being fully matriculated and accepted into a program. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a graduate catalog and to understand the criteria for the program of interest.

M.A. DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Biological & Environmental Sciences
- Earth & Planetary Sciences
- English Options (Choose One):
 - Literature
 - Writing
 - TESOL
- History
- Mathematics

OTHER DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Fine Arts (Choose One):
 - Painting
 - Illustration
- Master of Fine Arts in Professional Writing
- Master of Health Administration
- Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership
 - Contact Division of Graduate Studies office for separate application.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

Western Connecticut State University is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ WEBSITE ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____ FAX NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE) _____

How did you hear about WestConn's M.F.A. in Professional Writing Program? _____

◆ **EDUCATION:** List all other colleges and universities attended.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME	DATES ATTENDED	SPECIALIZATION/MAJOR	DEGREE EARNED	DEGREE DATE

(If needed, attach a separate sheet to indicate additional colleges)

◆ **WRITING EXPERIENCE:** Are you currently employed as a writer, or have you been employed as a writer in the past? If so, identify your position(s) and briefly describe your duties.

DATE	POSITION	EMPLOYER	ADDRESS

◆ **REFERENCES:** Provide a list of five professional and creative contacts (name, affiliation, telephone number, snail mail address and email address). Send confidential letters of recommendation under separate cover to the Division of Graduate Studies.

I waive the right to have access to letters of recommendation written on my behalf.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

◆ Is your interest in our program more focused on its creative or practical writing offerings? Please explain.

◆ Identify your preferred creative genre (poetry, fiction, etc.) and your preferred practical genre (essay writing, business and technical reports, journalism, etc.).

Creative: _____ Professional: _____

◆ Are you a published writer? If you have not listed publications on your c.v., please list them here or on a separate page.

◆ In a five-page essay, address why this particular MFA program is better suited to your goals and needs than other MFA programs. In answering this question, touch on your interest in writing and your aspirations for a future in the writing profession. Clip (do not staple) the essay to this admissions application.

◆ Submit a twenty- to fifty-page hard copy portfolio of writing samples in multiple genres. The portfolio may include excerpts from longer works. Please submit this work in a manila folder. No originals.

◆ I plan to complete the 60-credit program in ____ 2 ____ 3 or ____ 4 years. (check one)

◆ I wish to begin the program during: ____ Summer Residency ____ Winter Residency (*check one*)

◆ I do ____/do not ____ wish to be considered for a Graduate Assistant position in the English Department.

Please Note:

Summer residency is held the first full week in August; winter residency is held during the first full week in January.

New students must attend the first residency.

If you are planning on applying for financial aid, please do so now. Payment for your first semester is due one month before your first residency. For financial aid information, contact the Financial Aid Office at (203) 837-8580 or on the web at: www.wcsu.edu/admissions/financialaid.asp

The MFA Committee may request an interview with the candidate before making its final decision.

◆ I have answered all questions truthfully and to the best of my knowledge. The portfolio that I have submitted for consideration is my own work and represents my own artistic and creative writing abilities.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

Do not write below this line.

For MFA Candidate Interview Committee use:

____ Accepted

____ Declined

Reason for declining applicant: _____

COORDINATOR, MFA IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

DATE



MFA IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Dear MFA Applicant:

We are delighted to hear of your interest in the WestConn MFA in Professional Writing, the first and only low-residency MFA program dedicated to educating career writers for the contemporary marketplace. You will find in this packet all of the information and materials you need to complete your application. Please also be sure to see our website at <http://www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa/>. And, of course, I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about the program.

The enclosures here include a typical schedule of courses that you will complete in the program. Also enclosed in the packet, you will find a more detailed description of those courses. All students in the program will complete this course sequence, unless one or two of the courses are covered by transfer credit (students are limited to 8 hours of transfer credit). However, as you will quickly ascertain by reading the descriptions, our courses are quite unique and designed to contribute to the creation of a community of writers who are engaged in common issues. We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the program's full potential by enrolling in all of the courses in the sequence.

Please also find here two application forms, one for the Graduate Studies office and one for the MFA program. The enclosed checklist will help you to coordinate your completion of both applications and the **parallel material** you are required to submit. In the essay that we request, we are looking for a combination of clarity of expression, logical and creative ability, understanding of our program, and evidence of dedication to (and/or hunger for) the writing life. Please note that the application deadline is February 1. This is a postmark deadline.

As you probably know, the program features a highly reputable faculty of professional writers, creative writing professors, and academics in the Western Connecticut Writing Department, complemented by six Writers in Residence of national reputation and a number of Writing Mentors selected specifically to meet the demand created by your genres of interest. If you'd like to read more about our faculty, please click on the faculty bios link at our website <http://www.wcsu.edu/writing/mfa/faculty.asp>.

Additionally, we have established a Board of Advisors for the program, professional writers, agents, and editors who will advise the program and contribute to residencies

and other campus events on an occasional basis. Our growing Board now includes Norman Pearlstine, former Editor-in-Chief of Time, Inc.; David Hartwell, Editor of TOR Books; Dr. Daphne Jameson of Cornell University; and literary agent Georges Borchardt.

We plan a full slate of entertaining and informative activities during the residencies with a variety of agents, editors, and guest writers. You have probably realized by now, though, that coursework in the WestConn program is driven and designed by you. We have provided you and your faculty mentors a framework within which to work; it's up to you to decide how best to fill in the details and help create your own educational experience. It's up to you to select your genres of specialization, up to you to design reading lists and work contracts, up to you to design your enrichment project. As always, I will be available to advise you at these and all other stages of the program. Our program secretary, Laurel Richards, at 203-837-8878, will also be able to answer many of your questions.

In closing, let me just point out a few things you'll need in order to participate in the program. First, you'll have to have access to a computer with Internet access. You will use the computer to participate in an online workshop each semester, to conduct research, and most likely to communicate with me, with your student colleagues, and with faculty members. Second, you'll need to be able to set aside a week-long block of time to attend a residency each semester that you are enrolled (one in early August and one in early January). And you'll need the drive and determination necessary to get the most out of a program that you will help to design yourself. Finally, you may be interested to learn that the program is looking into holding January residencies at remote locations such as Florida, Puerto Rico, or The Bahamas, to avoid inclement weather in Danbury. We will inform you of developments. We look forward to receiving your application and hope to meet you at the next residency, if not before.

Sincerely,

Brian Clements

Coordinator

WCSU MFA in Professional Writing

Genre and Schedule Questionnaire

I. Genre

Your studies at WestConn will focus on two genres: a primary genre and a second genre. In order to meet the needs of the program, we will conduct part of our faculty hiring based on your fields of interest. In order to gauge your interest, we ask that you complete this form and return it with your application packet. This is the only way we can ensure that your fields of interest are addressed.

You will select one creative genre (for instance: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, drama, screenwriting, YA fiction, etc.) and one practical genre (for instance: journalism, investigative reporting, technical writing, science writing, medical writing, public relations, marketing, advertising copy, historical biography, etc.). *These are only examples, and we encourage you to list others if your real interest lies outside the genres we have suggested.*

Your primary genre may be a creative genre or a practical genre; if your primary genre is creative, your secondary genre must be practical, and vice versa.

If you are undecided about your genres of primary and secondary interest, it is very important that you list at the bottom of this page your fields of potential interest, both creative and practical.

Name _____

My primary genre of interest is _____.
creative/practical (circle one)

My second genre of interest is _____.
creative/practical (circle one)

I am undecided about one or both of the above. The fields that interest me are:

II. Schedule

You have three schedule options for completing the program: 2-year, 3-year, and 4-year. Please note that the Coordinator can also work out other schedule plans – including plans for part-time study.

In the **2-year program**, you will complete the program in four successive semesters of study.

In the **3-year program**, most students will complete the program with one year of two-semester study and two years of one-semester study. It helps us if you can designate these semesters at application time (see below*); your schedule can be adjusted later, if necessary.

In the **4-year program**, most students will complete the program with four years of one-semester study. It helps us if you can designate these semesters at application time (see below*); your schedule can be adjusted later, if necessary.

Note also that you are required to attend four residencies; unless you opt for the campus workshop option (see Program Description and Degree Requirements sheet). Finally, please note that due to program dynamics and the need to orient students and faculty, students who prefer to begin the program in the Fall semester (August residency) may be given preference over students who prefer to begin the program in the Spring semester (January residency).

It is essential that you complete the following schedule request. Our admissions process requires that we know the following information so that we can align student scheduling requirements.

Name _____

I prefer the 2-year 3-year 4-year schedule.

I will begin the program in the _____ semester.

3- or 4-year option

*I prefer to take the _____ semester(s) off.

I expect to enroll part-time in some or all semesters.

Western Connecticut MFA in Professional Writing Program Description and Degree Requirements

Program Overview

The program is built around five essential blocks:

- I. Residencies
- II. Coursework
- III. Practicum/Internship
- IV. Enrichment Project
- V. Thesis

I. Residencies

The program hosts two residencies per year: one in the first week of August and another in the first week of January. **Attendance is required at any residency that correlates to any semester in which you are enrolled** (for an alternative, please see the following section, Campus Workshops). August residencies correlate to Fall semesters; January residencies correlate to Spring semesters.

The residencies provide the essential locus for building community in the program. You will get the most out of the program by taking advantage of the presence, work, and comments of your colleagues in the program at the residencies. Becoming an engaged and active member of the program at the residencies will also increase the likelihood that you will be able to take advantage of networking opportunities with students and faculty when you graduate.

At the residencies, you can expect a week of intense work and equally intense entertainment. Our days will start at approximately 9 am and will run throughout the day with workshops, lectures, and meetings with faculty, and will conclude with readings and other social events after a community dinner.

So that we might achieve that sense of community and foster a rich residency experience, attendance is required for all students at all events during the residency. Local students might best think of the residency as traveling to a remote location without going far. While we understand that Danbury residents may choose to sleep at home in their own beds, they should plan on being away from home and away from work for the full day every day of the residency. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the residencies and the need to have all students participating in them fully.

Campus Workshops

We also understand that local students might appreciate ongoing programming outside of the residencies. Therefore, we offer a series of on-campus workshops, readings, and

lectures during the normal academic year. Students have the option to forego one residency in favor of attending five of these on-campus workshops sponsored by the program. However, this option is not available in the first semester; **all students must attend the residency that corresponds to their first semester of enrollment.**

Campus workshops are open to all students in the program, not just to students who choose to select the workshop option in lieu of one residency.

The Campus Workshop Option in lieu of one residency is also available to non-local students, but the cost may be prohibitive to them due to travel, depending on where they live.

II. Coursework

Please see the Recommended Course Sequence and Course Descriptions that arrived in this packet.

In the Multi-Genre Workshop, you will work on projects in your two chosen genres; you will also do some writing in other genres. You will critique the writing of other students in the workshop, and they will critique your work. The critiques and wide array of writing assignments are designed to help you build critical, writing, and editorial skills that are necessary for the professional writer or editor.

With the exception of the Internship/Practicum course, all of the other courses are individual, student-driven mentorships. In each course, you will work one-on-one with a faculty member to design the syllabus, create a reading list, define the writing workload, and schedule your meetings, whether online, by mail, by phone, or in person.

It is most important to remember that you bear the responsibility of getting the most out of these classes. Your return will be determined almost entirely by your level of investment in the course. You will need to do independent research, to drive yourself to write frequently, and to ask the right questions of your mentors.

All of the mentors in the program will be highly successful writers in their respective fields. Their role, rather than to dictate to you a set of knowledge, is to guide you through your own journey of discovery. They will provide you with feedback, ask you directed and challenging questions, suggest useful writing projects, and direct you to important resources.

As you probably know by now, part of the application process for the program involves selecting two genres as your primary and second genres, one creative and one practical. The faculty members with whom you will work in the program are determined by your genres of interest and the faculty's genres of expertise. We will make every effort to match you with the faculty members you want most to work with.

III. Practicum and Internships

One of the goals of the program is to give you practical, hands-on experience working in one of your fields of interest. Students who are interested in teaching may choose to complete a teaching practicum by teaching at any level and completing a parallel project such as an essay or journaling.

Students who are not interested in teaching may participate in an internship that complements their course of study. The MFA Coordinator can assist the student in setting up such an internship with organizations, businesses, or institutions across the country. The student might, for example, intern at a commercial magazine, for a newspaper or book publisher, as a grant writer, in a technical writing shop, or any other appropriate venue.

IV. Enrichment Projects

Enrichment projects are designed to give the student an opportunity to explore an avenue of learning outside the course structure that he or she might not have the time or initiative to explore otherwise. The student will design in collaboration with the MFA Coordinator a project that will increase his or her ability as a writer, provide valuable networking contacts, or educate and enrich the student on a personal or professional level. The student might, for example, choose to learn a foreign language, start a new online publication, volunteer for a non-profit organization, or try another challenging and appropriate activity.

V. Thesis

In your final semester, you will register for 8 hours of thesis work. This time is designed to allow you to complete your final thesis, a book-length (or appropriate equivalent) piece of work in your primary genre (or, perhaps in some cases, a combination of the primary and the second genre). The completed thesis must be approved by your thesis committee (first reader, second reader, and MFA Coordinator) in order to receive the degree. The committee will judge the thesis on the quality and publishability of the work.

The MFA in Professional Writing at Western Connecticut Recommended Course Sequence and Course Descriptions

First Year Courses:

First Semester

WRT 543	Online Multi-Genre Workshop I	4 credits
WRT 536	Reading for Writers I (Primary Genre)	4 credits
WRT 539	Genre History, Criticism, and Theory	4 credits
WRT 542	Writing in the Primary Genre I	4 credits

Second Semester

WRT 579	Online Multi-Genre Workshop II	4 credits
WRT 537	Reading for Writers II (Second Genre)	4 credits
WRT 576	Writing in the Primary Genre II	4 credits
WRT 578	Writing in the Second Genre	4 credits

Second Year Courses:

First Semester

WRT 582	Online Multi-Genre Workshop III	4 credits
WRT 577	Writing in the Primary Genre III	4 credits
WRT 569	Internship or Teaching Practicum	4 credits
WRT 571	The Individual Aesthetic and Process	4 credits

Second Semester

WRT 583	Online Multi-Genre Workshop IV	4 credits
WRT 584	Thesis/PDE	8 credits

FIRST YEAR COURSES

WRT 543, 579 Online Multi-Genre Workshops (4 credits)

The student will participate regularly with student colleagues and with an instructor in on-line discussion of student work in multiple genres. The course will help students to develop the capacity to analyze, edit, and discuss their own work and the work of others. It will also train them to benefit from editorial observations and critiques. The workshop instructor may also introduce outside texts and writing exercises.

WRT 536 Reading for Writers I (Primary Genre) (4 credits)

This guided, self-designed course provides the writer with a foundation of readings in the genre. Under the guidance of a professional writer in the genre, each student will develop a substantial reading list of “classics” of the particular writing field as well as the work of important contemporary practitioners.

WRT 539 Genre History, Criticism and Theory (4 credits)

Under guidance of a professional writer or scholar in the writing field, the student will design a specific curriculum for achieving a working awareness of the history, range of criticism, and critical theory associated with the writing genre. Reading will certainly be a part of this, but

papers or interviews, attendance at lectures, formal courses or other modalities may also be a part of this course.

WRT 542 Writing in the Primary Genre I (4 credits)

With the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will research, develop, and write a customized project or projects for the course.

WRT 537 Reading for Writers II (Second Genre) (4 credits)

The rationale for this course is the same as that for Reading for Writers I. However, depending upon the student's individual background and choices of genres, the second genre may be less familiar to the student and, therefore, may require extra attention. Under the guidance of a professional writer in the genre, each student will develop a substantial reading list of books the student should be familiar with.

WRT 576 Writing in the Primary Genre II (4 credits)

This second required course in the primary genre will further develop the writer's skills. Again, students will research, develop, and write a project or projects for the course.

WRT 578 Writing in the Second Genre (4 credits)

The professional writer needs the ability to move from one genre of writing to another. The program, therefore, requires the student to concentrate on a second genre of writing. With the guidance of a faculty mentor, the student will research, develop, and write a project or projects for this course.

SECOND YEAR COURSES

WRT 582, 583 Online Multi-Genre Workshops (4 credits)

The student will participate regularly with student colleagues and with an instructor in on-line discussion of student work in multiple genres. The course will help students to develop the capacity to analyze, edit, and discuss their own work and the work of others. It will also train them to benefit from editorial observations and critiques. The workshop instructor may also introduce outside texts and writing exercises.

WRT 577 Writing in the Primary Genre III (4 credits)

This third required course in the primary genre will further develop the writer's skills. Again, students will research, develop, and write a project or projects for the course.

WRT 569 Internship or Teaching Practicum (4 credits)

The program requires students to share their understandings as writers with others who want or need to write. The student will work as a teacher or coach of writing under the tutelage of a qualified mentor. Alternatively, the student may participate in an internship to gain hands-on experience in a chosen field. The student will be required to keep a journal of his or her experience and to write a substantial evaluation of the experience.

WRT 571 The Individual and Aesthetic Process

(4 credits)

The program requires students to develop a sense of their own voices and to learn how to be self-critical about their writing. The student will write a theory of writing that examines his or her own view of what makes effective and significant writing. The goal is to develop standards of value appropriate to the genre in which the writer wishes to excel. The writer must articulate a theoretical basis that involves awareness of critical perspectives on his or her principal genre.

WRT 584 Thesis

(8 credits)

The student will write a book-length piece of writing in the primary genre. The writer will develop this thesis in consultation with a thesis director and second reader. The program requires students to complete the thesis in a publishable form as judged by the thesis advisor and M.F.A coordinator and reviewed by the M.F.A. committee.

MFA in Professional Writing Tuition and Fees

These figures are unique to the MFA in Professional Writing. Please disregard any “MFA” tuition and fee information you may have seen on the university web site—the information you saw was most likely for the MFA in Painting and Illustration.

The figures represented here are for Fall 08-09 and are likely to increase.

Full-Time Tuition	In-State	Out-of-State
		2188.50
State University Fee	1787	1787
General Student Fee		
Student Activity Fee		
Information Tech. Fee		
Student Health Ins. *	413	413
Residency Fee	805	805
	5193.5	9102.5

*Can be waived with proof of insurance

Part-Time Tuition	Extension Rate (\$428 per credit hour)		
	4 Hours	8 Hours	8-Hour Intersession Plus 8-Hour Semester
	1712	3424	6848
Registration Fee	60	60	60
Residency Fee	805	805	805
	2577	4289	7713

All figures are *per semester*, not per year.

Differences Between Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment in WestConn's MFA in Professional Writing

Definitions

Full-Time: The student is enrolled in 9 or more hours in a given Fall or Spring semester.

Part-Time: The student is enrolled in fewer than 9 hours in a given Fall or Spring semester or is enrolled in a Summer or Winter intersession.

Full-Time

- You pay in-state/out-of-state tuition (see the Tuition and Fees chart).
- You will incur additional fees required by the university (see the Tuition and Fees chart).
- You are eligible for a higher amount of student loans.
- You are eligible for discounted student health insurance through the university, and you are required to carry health insurance.
- You may receive 100% of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for which you are eligible.

Part-Time

- You pay the extension fee rate for tuition (see the Tuition and Fees chart).
- You are eligible for a lower amount of student loans.
- You will not receive the discount on student health insurance through the university, but you are not required to carry health insurance.
- You may receive 50% of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for which you are eligible.
- You may register for the same number of credits as a full-time student (whereas the full-time student would register for 16 hours in the Fall, for example, you would register for 8 in the Summer and 8 in the Fall, and the courses would begin and end concurrently).
- If you are registered for fewer than 6 hours for 6 months or more, your student loan payments will come due (at which time you will either need to make payments until you enroll again or use your one-time payment deferment).

In terms of actual registration, full-time students will register for all hours in the Fall or Spring semester. Part-time students who want to finish the program in two or three years must register for some hours during Summer/Winter intersessions. For example, the differences between FT/PT in the first year of a two-year plan in the program:

- Full-time: 16 hours in the Fall, 16 hours in the Spring
- Part-time: 8 hours in the Summer, 8 hours in the Fall, 8 hours in Winter, 8 hours in the Spring (the Summer/Fall courses run concurrently and Winter/Spring courses run concurrently)

As you can see, from the perspective of the student, there is no practical difference in the workload on the two-year plan—the choice comes down to a matter of determining which combination of factors above is most important to you. On the three- or four-year plan, the differences are more pronounced.

- Example for full-time, 4-year: 16 hours in one semester of each of three successive years, then 12 hours in one semester of the final year
- Example for part-time, 4-year: the student has the option of taking 4-8 hours in any given Fall or Spring term during the four years and may register for some Summer/Winter courses if necessary.

Western Connecticut State University
MFA in Professional Writing
Application Checklist

The application deadline is February 1. This is a postmark deadline.

Send all materials to:

Division of Graduate Studies
Western Connecticut State University
181 White St.
Danbury, CT 06810

Your application packet must include the following materials in order to be complete:

- Completed Application for Admission, Master of Professional Writing. Plus:
 - Five-page essay (see the application form for instructions)
 - Twenty- to fifty-page portfolio (see the application form for instructions)¹

- Completed Application for Admission, Graduate Studies. Plus:
 - Official transcripts from all institutions of higher learning you have attended²
 - Immunization records, if born after 12/31/56
 - A photocopy of your Alien Registration Receipt Card, if you hold one
 - \$50 application fee

- Curriculum vitae or résumé

- Genre and Schedule Questionnaire

Confidential letters of recommendation are not required, but may be sent under separate cover to the Graduate Studies office.

It is likely that you will be asked to participate in a phone interview with the program coordinator as part of the application process.

¹ The committee prefers to see writing samples in multiple genres. However, if the applicant has writing samples in only one genre, multiple genres are not required.

² Admission to the program requires an undergraduate degree in any field. You must provide transcriptual evidence of the degree.