

howard university mfa creative writing

Howard University MFA Creative Writing is a prestigious program that attracts aspiring writers from across the nation and around the globe. This program, part of Howard University's College of Arts and Sciences, is designed to cultivate the unique voices of its students through a blend of rigorous coursework, mentorship, and community engagement. With a commitment to diversity in literature, Howard University offers a unique environment for writers to develop their craft while exploring the complexities of identity, culture, and society.

Program Overview

The MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University is a two-year, full-time course of study that culminates in a creative thesis, typically a novel, collection of stories, or a collection of poems. The program is designed to provide students with a robust understanding of the craft of writing, alongside critical theory and the business of publishing.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum is composed of various workshops, seminars, and independent study opportunities. Some key components of the program include:

1. Workshops: These are the heart of the MFA experience, where students share their work and receive feedback from peers and faculty.
2. Craft Courses: These classes focus on different genres, including fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, allowing students to explore various forms of writing.
3. Literary Theory: Understanding the theoretical frameworks behind literature is crucial for writers, and courses in this area help deepen students' critical thinking.
4. Thesis Development: Students will work closely with faculty advisors to develop their creative thesis, receiving guidance and support throughout the process.

Faculty and Mentorship

The faculty in the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University comprises accomplished authors and educators who are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of writers. They bring a wealth of experience and diverse backgrounds, contributing to a rich educational environment.

- Mentorship: Each student is paired with a faculty mentor who provides personalized guidance throughout their studies. This relationship is pivotal for students as they navigate their creative journeys.
- Visiting Writers: The program regularly hosts visiting writers and industry professionals, providing students with opportunities to network and learn from established voices in the literary community.

Diversity and Representation

Howard University has a long-standing commitment to diversity, and this ethos is reflected in its MFA Creative Writing program. The program actively seeks to amplify underrepresented voices in literature, fostering an environment where students can explore their identities and experiences through their writing.

Focus on Underrepresented Narratives

The importance of diverse narratives cannot be overstated in today's literary landscape. The program encourages students to engage with and write about:

- Cultural Identity: Exploring how race, ethnicity, and culture shape personal and collective narratives.
- Social Justice: Addressing issues of inequality, injustice, and activism through creative expression.
- Historical Context: Understanding how history influences contemporary writing and identity.

Students are encouraged to draw from their unique backgrounds and experiences, creating a tapestry of voices that enriches the literary world.

Community Engagement and Opportunities

Howard University is located in Washington, D.C., a vibrant city with a rich literary history. The MFA program leverages this location to offer students numerous opportunities for community engagement and professional development.

Internships and Work Opportunities

Students in the MFA program have access to a variety of internships that provide practical experience in the literary field. Some potential opportunities include:

- Publishing Houses: Interning at established publishing companies allows students to gain insight into the publishing process.
- Literary Magazines: Many students contribute to or intern with literary magazines, gaining experience in editing and critiquing submissions.
- Nonprofits and Arts Organizations: Engaging with organizations that promote literacy and the arts can provide valuable networking opportunities and hands-on experience.

Readings and Literary Events

The program hosts a series of readings and events throughout the academic year, featuring both student work and established authors. These gatherings are an excellent way for students to share their writing with the community and connect with other writers and readers.

- Open Mic Nights: These informal events encourage students to share their work in a supportive environment.
- Guest Lectures: Renowned authors and industry professionals are invited to speak, providing insight into the writing and publishing process.

Application Process

Applying to the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University requires careful preparation. Prospective students should be aware of the following components of the application process:

1. Writing Samples: Applicants must submit a portfolio of their work, usually consisting of 15-25 pages of creative writing.
2. Statement of Purpose: This essay should outline the applicant's writing goals, influences, and reasons for choosing Howard University.
3. Letters of Recommendation: Typically, two or three letters from individuals familiar with the applicant's writing and academic capabilities are required.
4. Transcripts: Official transcripts from previous academic institutions are necessary to assess the applicant's educational background.

Deadlines and Requirements

It's crucial for applicants to familiarize themselves with the specific deadlines and requirements for the program, as these can vary from year to year. Checking the official Howard University website for the most current information is recommended.

Conclusion

The Howard University MFA Creative Writing program stands out as a nurturing ground for aspiring writers seeking to hone their craft within a diverse and supportive community. By prioritizing mentorship, community engagement, and the exploration of underrepresented narratives, the program equips students with the tools they need to succeed in the literary world. Whether you aspire to write fiction, poetry, or creative nonfiction, Howard University offers a unique opportunity to cultivate your voice and share your stories with the world. As the literary landscape continues to evolve, the program remains committed to fostering creativity, diversity, and excellence in writing, ensuring that its graduates are well-prepared to make their mark on the literary scene.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the duration of the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University?

The MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University typically takes three years to complete,

including coursework and thesis writing.

What genres can students focus on in Howard University's MFA Creative Writing program?

Students in the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University can focus on various genres, including fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

Are there any notable faculty members in the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University?

Yes, Howard University's MFA Creative Writing program features notable faculty members, including award-winning authors and poets who provide mentorship and guidance to students.

Is there a strong emphasis on social justice themes in the MFA Creative Writing curriculum at Howard University?

Yes, the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University places a strong emphasis on social justice, encouraging students to explore themes related to race, identity, and culture in their writing.

What are the application requirements for the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University?

Application requirements for the MFA Creative Writing program at Howard University typically include a completed application form, a writing sample, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement.

Does Howard University offer any funding or scholarships for MFA Creative Writing students?

Yes, Howard University offers various funding opportunities and scholarships for MFA Creative Writing students, which can help offset tuition costs and support their studies.

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