The Master of Fine Arts in Writing (MFAW) program distinguishes itself by tapping the unique potential of interdisciplinary writing through a curriculum modeled on studio art training.

**Freedom to Choose**

We welcome writers of all genres, as well as visual artists who work with language as an integral component of their practice. Students move freely between poetry, fiction, playwriting, and non-fiction, and work with their advisors to develop a plan that takes advantage of adjacent fields of study, such as comics, artists’ books, performance, film, sculpture, arts journalism, and sound. We encourage hybrid work and collaborative projects such as flash fiction, digital poetics, poetic theater, graphic novels, and independent publishing.
Faculty Mentors

The MFAW draws on a distinguished faculty with diverse artistic and intellectual interests who teach to their passions. A robust program of visiting writers, artists and designers augments our core faculty each semester, giving students opportunities to make professional connections from around the globe. Recent visitors include Tarfia Faizullah, Cathy Park Hong, Juan Martinez, Maggie Nelson, Roger Reeves, Sarah Schulman, Layli Long Soldier and Mai Der Vang.

Professional Preparation

Students edit an annual print publication, Collected, which features the work of graduating students, and may gain editorial and journalism experience working with SAIC’s F Newsmagazine. Second year MFAWs present their work in a student-organized graduate lecture series and those who demonstrate a studio practice may participate in the annual MFA Thesis Exhibition or time-arts events. Program alumni write and publish books, stage plays, perform, teach, and establish galleries, small presses, independent theater spaces and salons nationally and internationally.

Scholarships And Grants

Merit scholarships are awarded to applicants of exceptional promise by the Admissions Committee as part of the admissions process. We also offer writing fellowships, teaching assistantships, incentive awards and small project grants. Three juried fellowships are awarded to graduating MFAWs in the spring. Past jurors include Eula Bliss, Thalia Field, Fanny Howe, Daniel Alexander (Jomama) Jones, Bhanu Kapil, Ben Marcus, and Paisley Rekdal.

Curriculum Requirements

Credit Hours

WRIT 5001 Writing Workshop 12
WRIT 5500 Topics in Writing Seminar 12
MFA 6009 Graduate Projects 24
(minimum of 12 credits with writing advisors)
Electives 12
(Courses at the 3000 level or above. Art History courses must be at the 4000 level or above)
Participation in four graduate critiques
Inclusion in graduate publication or participation in the Graduate Exhibition or equivalent
Completion of the thesis

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 60

Students may elect internships to satisfy up to 6 hours of elective credit.

Application Process

Submit:
▶ Online application
▶ Application fee
▶ Official college transcripts
▶ Statement of purpose
▶ Letters of recommendation
▶ ePortfolio

For more information on requirements, please visit:

saic.edu/mfaw
The BlackBox Studio 808 is uniquely designed to encourage writing-driven and interdisciplinary studio practice. Resources include a flexible performance black box, and a BookLab equipped with tools and materials to aid the research and production of independent publications.
Graduate Admissions
36 South Wabash Avenue, suite 1201
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone 312.629.6100 / 800.232.7242
Fax 312.629.6101
gradmiss@saic.edu

Application Deadline: January 10
For application requirements, visit saic.edu/mfaw