

Graduation Plan – Timeline and Expectations

Summer 1

(May - July of the 1st year)

CRWR 601-603

Graduate Writer's Workshop
(5 credits)

- All students begin their studies in the program in the summer session, and not earlier in the academic year (with the exception perhaps of transfer students).

- At this stage, students may have previously drafted a manuscript that they plan on significantly revising.

- Or students may have completed or abandoned a previous manuscript, with plans on writing a new one while in the program.

- Or students may have written only a few pieces or a few pages in their genre so far, with a vague idea of what their creative project might be.

The 12-week summer session consists of:

- Six weeks of asynchronous instruction online (May to mid-June)

- A two-week period to prepare submissions for three residency workshops (mid-June to start of July)

- A two-week period to review all submissions for the residency workshops (until mid-July), keeping in mind that a one-week break for the July 4th holiday is observed at APU during this time.

- The 12-day residency on campus (mid-July to end of July)

Fall 1

(Aug - Dec of the 1st year)

CRWR 605 Form and Theory
(5 credits)

- Students may or may not have a detailed plan or concrete goal for the creative project.

- Students are encouraged to experiment and follow the lead of their inspiration.

- In addition to submitting pages of creative work and critical analysis, students should submit annotations for all of the books they have read in the program so far, to be included in the annotated bibliography of the thesis.

- Looking ahead to the creative project for the thesis, students should expect to include a version of at least a few pages of the creative work drafted in the fall; in some cases, it could be many pages; rarely should it be none of the pages.

The 16-week Fall Semester consists of:

- Four periods of four-weeks. At the end of each four-week period, students will submit 15-20 pages of prose or 5-6 pages of poetry; 5-6 pages of critical analysis; 2-3 annotations for an annotated bibliography of books assigned during every semester

Spring 1

(Jan – April of the 1st year)

CRWR 605 Form and Theory
(5 credits)

- Students should be able to identify a few themes or frameworks that may apply to an emerging collection of creative work or a single manuscript-length piece.
- Students should be in the habit of submitting annotations for all new books read by the end of the semester.
- By the end of the first spring semester, students should have a set foundation for the creative project for the thesis. They should expect to include a version of quite a few pages of the creative work drafted this semester.

The 16-week Spring Semester consists of:

- Four periods of four-weeks. At the end of each four-week period, students will submit 15-20 pages of prose or 5-6 pages of poetry; 5-6 pages of critical analysis; 2-3 annotations for an annotated bibliography of books assigned during every semester.

Summer 2

(May – July of the 2nd year)

CRWR 601-603
Graduate Writer's Workshop
(5 credits)

- For the workshops during the residency, students should submit work that they have been drafting during the previous spring and fall semesters, and which plan to include in the creative project for the thesis.

The 12-week summer session consists of:

- Six weeks of asynchronous instruction online (May to mid-June)
- A two-week period to read additional books assigned by their mentors, as submissions for workshops should already be prepared (mid-June to start of July)
- A two-week period to review all submissions for the residency workshops (until mid-July), keeping in mind that a one-week break for the July 4th holiday is observed at APU during this time.
- The 12-day residency on campus (mid-July to end of July)

Fall 2

(Aug – Dec of the 2nd year)

CRWR 605 Form and Theory
(5 credits)

- This should be the last semester that students write new chapters/sections/works for their creative project. Longer works should achieve a recognizable beginning, middle, and end. Students should look at this semester as a time to fill in gaps and wrap things up. Any significant changes to the creative project should happen in these months, and no later.
 - By the end of the fall semester, students should know the composition of their creative project: which shorter works have made the cut in a collection; which chapters/sections will be included in a longer work. They should know roughly how many total pages it will be.
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- Students should look ahead to the Thesis credits as a period of revision that enters the editing and refinement phase of the creative work.
 - During this semester, students and mentors should decide on a grounding concept for the thesis essay. Mentors should assign two more craft books / critical texts in relation to this grounding concept.
 - By the end of the semester, students should submit a complete annotated bibliography of at least 38-40 works. The annotated bibliography should require only minor revision at this point.

The 16-week Fall Semester consists of:

- Four periods of four-weeks. At the end of each four-week period, students will submit 15-20 pages of prose or 5-6 pages of poetry; 5-6 pages of critical analysis; 2-3 annotations for an annotated bibliography of books assigned during every semester.

Spring 2

(Jan – April of the 2nd year)

CRWR 699 Thesis
(5 credits)

- Ideally in the first month, students have established a foundation of 10+/- first draft pages for the thesis essay; these pages should focus on the grounding and relevant concepts, and not yet on personal narrative.
- In the second month, students should finish the last round of revisions for the work that is closest to completion. Students revising a single longer work should finalize the opening chapters at this stage.
- It is not required that students like the final drafts of their creative works; it is required that the mentors deem the works to be of good or sufficient quality.
- By the end of the semester, students should have a rough draft of the thesis essay that addresses the grounding concept and both relevant concepts. This rough draft may or may not include sections of personal narrative.
- By the end of the semester, students should have completed a final draft of at least two-thirds of their creative work.
- The final draft of the annotated bibliography must be complete.

The 16-week Spring Semester can follow a routine of:

- January: work on thesis essay
 - February: revise creative work and annotated bibliography
 - March: work on thesis essay
 - April: revise creative work and annotated bibliography
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Summer 3

(May – June of the 3rd year)

CRWR 699 Thesis

(3 credits)

- Students and mentors may look at this as a 7-week “mop-up” period to add any missing pieces to the thesis essay and revise any unfinished sections of the creative work.
- All work submitted by the student must be considered of good or sufficient quality by the mentor.
- Students and mentors may not look ahead to the Thesis Writer’s Workshop in July as an extension period for work left incomplete in this module.
- Students with an incomplete thesis cannot advance to Thesis Writer’s Workshop; they will not graduate this year.

The 7-week Summer Module consists of:

- One period of four weeks and one period of three weeks. By the end of both periods, students will submit a final draft of the thesis essay of least 20 pages; a final draft of the creative project of at least 100 pages of prose or 48 pages of poetry.

Summer 3

(July of the 3rd year)

CRWR 604

Thesis Writer’s Workshop

(3 credits)

- After the first week in July, students will submit a rough draft of their 25-minute PowerPoint presentation, along with the pages of their own work that they plan to read for 15 minutes after the presentation.
- As a supplement to the PowerPoint draft, students will submit to their mentors a colloquium prospectus, outlining the plan for each slide, listing any material to be presented in addition to the statements and passages on the slides. This prospectus will identify key example passages from the work of established writers and from the student’s own work.
- Students will attend all scheduled events at the residency, as they would the previous two summers; however, they will not present their own work for critique in workshops. They will be given the opportunity to lead a workshop, if they so choose.
- Students will excuse themselves for one of the workshops to practice their colloquium presentation with the director before giving the presentation as a scheduled afternoon lecture.

The 5-week July Block consists of:

- One period of three weeks and one period of two weeks. During the first three weeks, students will prepare their colloquium presentations, keeping in mind that a one-week break for the July 4th holiday lands in the middle of this period. During the last two weeks, students will attend the full residency and present their colloquiums.
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