

Children's Literature

Writing for Children: Rules that Rule
Writing the Picture Book
Marketing Children's Literature and Recent Trends
Writing the Chapter Book for Children

Other Genres

Historical Fiction
The Techno-Thriller
The Modern Young Adult Novel
Horror and Fantasy

CERTIFICATE IN WRITING POPULAR FICTION

If you don't have an undergraduate degree but would still like to take advantage of this unique program, Seton Hill's Certificate in Writing Popular Fiction is for you. Please call or e-mail Seton Hill's Office of Graduate and Adult Studies, 724.838.4208, gadmit@setonhill.edu, for more information.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Scholar's Discount

The Scholar's Discount is a 20% or 25% discount on tuition and can be applied for by completing the Scholar's Discount Application. The Scholar's Discount Application will be included in your application packet if requested from the Admissions Office, or, if you apply online, can be found on www.setonhill.edu under Financial Aid, Graduate Students.

Loans

Graduate students wishing to pursue loan options are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.edu.gov as soon as possible. Graduate students at Seton Hill University are considered for need-based aid, generally in the form of loans, once the FAFSA is received. For more information on types of loans available to graduate students, visit the Financial Aid, Graduate Students section of www.setonhill.edu.

Payment Plans

Seton Hill's Office of Student Accounts offers interest-free monthly payment options. Minimum enrollment fees apply. Payments can be made online. For more information, visit the Student Accounts section of www.setonhill.edu.

Employer Reimbursement Tuition-Deferment Plan

For students who receive employer reimbursement, Seton Hill University offers a tuition-deferment plan that postpones

payment of tuition and fees until 30 days after the receipt of grades. To become eligible for this program, students must fill out the Employer Verification Form each semester. For more information, please visit the Adult Degree Program section of www.setonhill.edu. To request an employer verification form, please contact Seton Hill's Office of Graduate and Adult Studies.



ABOUT SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

Located atop 200 acres of tree-lined hills in Greensburg, Pa., Seton Hill offers an inspirational setting for a life-changing education. Founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1918, Seton Hill started out as a small liberal arts college for women. It has since grown into a 2000-student coeducational university, with more than 30 undergraduate programs and 11 graduate programs. A Catholic university, Seton Hill embraces students of all faiths, and has continued to follow a sole mission - to educate students to think and act critically, creatively, and ethically as productive members of society, committed to transforming the world. For more information about Seton Hill, please visit www.setonhill.edu.

Ready to apply?

You can apply online at www.setonhill.edu, or contact Seton Hill's Office of Admissions.

Need more information?

Visit www.setonhill.edu or contact us:

Office of Graduate and Adult Studies

gadmit@setonhill.edu
724.838.4208
1.800.826.6234

Writing Popular Fiction

Program Director
Dr. Albert Wendland
wendland@setonhill.edu
724.830.1019

We look forward to hearing from you!

Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction

WRITE NOW!

AT SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

CHALLENGE REALITY - CREATE ANOTHER.

Seton Hill
UNIVERSITY

www.setonhill.edu

GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT
SETON HILL UNIVERSITY

ART THERAPY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP CERTIFICATE
GENOCIDE & HOLOCAUST STUDIES CERTIFICATE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY
MBA PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SPECIAL EDUCATION WRITING POPULAR FICTION (M.F.A. & CERTIFICATE)

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN WRITING POPULAR FICTION

AN ONLINE PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY INTENSIVE ON-CAMPUS WRITERS' RESIDENCIES

DO YOU DREAM OF WRITING THE FICTION THAT MAKES READERS STAY UP ALL NIGHT TO FINISH?

The Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction at Seton Hill is one of the only programs in the country that teaches writers to create – and market – the fiction that sells. Upon graduation from Seton Hill's program, you will have completed a full-length market-ready novel, earned a master's degree from a leading liberal arts University, and become part of a supportive network of published writers.

Seton Hill University's unique Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction teaches students to write marketable novels in popular genres like mystery, romance, science fiction, horror, and fantasy. Additional specialties include literature for children and adolescents, and cross-genre blends like romantic suspense or young adult mysteries. Knowing that graduate students have many obligations, Seton Hill has designed a flexible, intensive-residency format that allows you to earn a master's degree while working full-time or caring for a family. One-on-one mentoring by established writers enables students to develop a writing project in a genre of their choice. Online contact with other participants ensures that students become part of a writing community and that they receive varied commentary on their work-in-progress. Weeklong residencies, twice each year, inform and enliven the writing experience, bringing students together on Seton Hill's campus to learn the basics and complexities of popular fiction. Guest writers of regional and national fame add extra impact to this residency experience. So if you want to be a writer, if you are committed and independent, and if you long to achieve all the success you can, then Seton Hill's Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction is the program designed just for you.

OUR FACULTY

Michael Arnzen, Ph.D., professor of English and chair of the Humanities Division, is an English professor by day and a horror/suspense writer by night. He holds four Bram Stoker Awards for his often funny, always disturbing fiction.

Lee McClain, Ph.D., professor of English, happily divides her time between teaching and writing and finds that the two pursuits enrich each other. She writes romantic suspense, fiction for children and teens, and nonfiction essays and magazine articles.

Albert Wendland, Ph.D., professor of English and director of the Writing Popular Fiction Program, writes science fiction and poetry, in addition to academic and scholarly articles on topics associated with science fiction and popular fiction.

Published writers in every genre also serve as adjunct faculty members and mentors to students in the Writing Popular Fiction Program.

OUR GRADUATES

Seton Hill's Writing Popular Fiction graduates are published in every genre. And a large percentage of them stay involved in Seton Hill's program – serving as mentors and adjunct faculty, and sharing the successes (and the challenges) of life as a working writer with each other, and with current students. The Writing Popular Fiction alumni group hosts a writer's retreat every June that runs concurrently with the Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction's June residency, where graduates of the program (and other writers) can network, workshop their writing, and meet with editors and agents.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Applicants to the Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction Program must submit:

1. a completed application (apply online at www.setonhill.edu),
2. official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended,
3. three letters of recommendation,
4. a current resume,
5. a 10 page writing sample (which will be reviewed for its author's overall potential as a writer of popular fiction, with specific attention paid to story sense, character development, realistic dialogue, plot development, and originality), and
6. a letter of intent outlining the applicant's background and goals as they pertain to the Writing Popular Fiction Program.

WRITING POPULAR FICTION COURSES AND CURRICULUM

Writing Popular Fiction students are required to attend five on-campus writers' residencies (a graduation ceremony on campus concludes the fifth residency) and complete four Term

Writing Projects between residencies. Residencies occur in January and June each year, and students can enter the program at either residency. The residencies begin with an evening orientation and continue through five days, with a weekend always incorporated into the residency dates. During each on-campus writers' residency, students participate in writing workshops and choose required and elective modules - comprehensive, interrelated courses - based on their writing goals. For each Term Writing Project, students contract with a faculty mentor to complete a certain portion of the novel-length project that will serve as their master's thesis.

CURRICULUM

EL 610 • Writers' Residency 1:

Intensive writing workshops, lectures, and interactive modules on the craft of writing popular fiction. See list of genre modules below for sample topics. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 3 credits.

EL 615 • Term Writing Project 1:

Individualized writing projects with a faculty mentor, culminating in a publishable, book-length manuscript. Prerequisite: EL610. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 5 credits.

EL 620 • Writers' Residency 2:

Intensive writing workshops, lectures, and interactive modules on the craft of writing popular fiction. See list of genre modules below for sample topics. Prerequisite: EL615. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 3 credits.

EL 625 • Term Writing Project 2:

Individualized writing projects with a faculty mentor, culminating in a publishable, book-length manuscript. Prerequisite: EL620. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 5 credits.

EL 630 • Writers' Residency 3:

Intensive writing workshops, lectures, and interactive modules on the craft of writing popular fiction. See list of genre modules below for sample topics. Prerequisite: EL625. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 3 credits.

EL 635 • Term Writing Project 3:

Individualized writing projects with a faculty mentor, culminating in a publishable, book-length manuscript. Prerequisite: EL630. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 5 credits. Fee.

EL 640 • Writers' Residency 4:

Intensive writing workshops, lectures, and interactive modules on the craft of writing popular fiction. See list of genre modules below for sample topics. Prerequisite: EL635. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 3 credits.

EL 645 • Term Writing Project 4:

Individualized writing projects with a faculty mentor, culminating in a publishable, book-length manuscript. Prerequisite: EL640. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 5 credits.

EL 650 • Writers' Residency 5:

Intensive writing workshops, lectures, and interactive modules on the craft of writing popular fiction. See list of genre modules below for sample topics. Prerequisite: EL645. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 3 credits.

EL 930 • Capstone Writing Project:

Summation, presentation, and evaluation of Term Writing Projects, completed during the final residency. Students teach one hour in special student teaching sessions and present a public reading from their manuscript. Prerequisite: EL645. Spring and fall semesters. Pass/Fail only. 1 credit. (Completed with EL 650 Writers' Residency 5.)

MODULES

Required Modules

Showing, Telling, and Style
Characterization and Dialogue
Conflict and Plot
The Business of Writing
Novel Organization/Synopsis Writing
Point of View
Using Personal Experience/Setting
Research for Writing

Sample Elective Modules

Romance

Romance Characters: Stereotypes with a Difference
Marketing Romance and Recent Trends
How to Make a Living Writing Romance Novels
Sex, Style, and Plot in Romantic Fiction

Science Fiction

Marketing Science Fiction and Recent Trends
Blurring the Lines of Fantasy
World Building
Hard and Soft Science for SF

Mystery

Murder as a Fine Art
Forensics: How to Kill Your Character
Getting It Right: Accuracy in Mystery & Suspense Fiction
Marketing Mysteries and Recent Trends