



MASTER OF ARTS LITERATURE AND WRITING STUDIES

Program Overview

California State University San Marcos offers an innovative M.A. in Literature & Writing Studies that provides balanced training in both literary and writing studies, with a focus on cultural and diversity studies, theory and history, sustained analysis, and the creation, writing, and presentation of written and visual texts in a variety of genres. Literature & Writing M.A. students receive specialized training in college-level writing instruction and pedagogy and have the opportunity to teach first-year composition. The focus on first-year writing instruction has allowed our program to establish an excellent job placement record for instructors at local community colleges.

The M.A. program offers a variety of options for the culminating thesis project: in addition to traditional literary analysis, students may choose to analyze visual texts (such as films, television shows, and/or graphic fiction) or take the creative thesis option. A creative thesis can take many forms (e.g., work in fiction, poetry, drama, life writing, screen writing, etc.) and includes a critical introduction. The M.A. program at CSUSM features small class sizes and highly individualized paths to graduation tailored to students' specific career goals. Our students pursue a variety of careers after graduating, including doctoral programs, college writing instruction, publishing/editing, non-profit work, writing in a range of professional contexts, and many more.

Application Details

For best consideration, applications must be submitted by March 1. Last date to submit applications for Fall is May 15. Applications must include a statement of purpose, a writing sample (at least 5 pages), 3 letters of recommendation, a recent GRE score, and official transcripts.

Please visit the following website for additional information: <http://www.csusm.edu/ltwr/graduates/>



California State University
SAN MARCOS

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Testimonials

"Earning an M.A. in CSUSM's LTWR department showed me what it meant to be a scholar. The one-on-one mentoring I received from various professors, especially my thesis chair, engendered my desire to teach and work at the college-level. I left the LTWR M.A. program with the skills to build a career in academia."

Lauren Springer, M.A. (2009)

Assistant Professor of English at Mt. San Jacinto Community College

"The Literature and Writing program offered opportunities unique to my areas of focus that I wouldn't have had elsewhere. CSUSM's diverse LTWR faculty encourage inter-departmental collaboration, listening to students' academic and professional goals and providing personal support and development within the program and beyond. Seminar-style classes, hands on teaching training, and rich mentorship from colleagues and professors provided the experience I needed to enter the professional world fully prepared and join the editorial staff of an academic publisher upon graduation."

Amy Salisbury-Werhane, M.A. (2013)

Developmental Editor and Project Manager, Fountainhead Press

"The Literature and Writing Studies graduate program at CSUSM provided me with a comprehensive education, an exceptional community of faculty and graduate students, and an opportunity to grow as a scholar and teacher. CSUSM's MA program readied me for a career in teaching by giving me the opportunity to teach my own courses. Not only did teaching allow for me to put into practice the work of my graduate thesis, but as a teaching assistant, I gained classroom experience that was invaluable when transitioning to the job market within the community."

Jake Strona, M.A. (2013)

Full-Time Faculty of Letters at Mira Costa Community College



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