

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Handbook

Welcome

The M.F.A. in Creative Writing International program at UNLV offers concentrations in Fiction, Literary Nonfiction, and Poetry. Admitted M.F.A. students follow a three-year program that includes classes in literature and creative writing workshops, forms of the genre courses, travel abroad to a non-English speaking country, and an experiment in literary translation. The capstone experience is the M.F.A. thesis, generally completed in the third year, and which should be a book-length collection of short stories or a novel; a collection of essays, articles, or other work of literary nonfiction; or a book of poems. Graduates of the M.F.A. program have gone on to publish books, secure tenure-track teaching jobs, gain admission to Ph.D. programs, and develop successful careers in professional writing, editing, arts administration, and other fields which are advantaged and informed by knowledge of literature, writing and the humanities.

The M.F.A. program is engaged in an active partnership with the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute (BMI) (<http://blackmountaininstitute.org/>), which brings writers to the UNLV campus from around the world to read, speak on pressing world issues, and engage in panel discussions with other writers and public intellectuals. BMI provides cultural enrichment and education for the substantial audiences these events attract, and offers significant social and political outreach and engagement with the city of Las Vegas and its greater community. The Black Mountain Institute also publishes the established literary journals *Witness*.

M.F.A. students can gain practical experience in literary publishing by working with *Witness* and/or with the poetry journal *Interim*, published by the Department of English. In addition to the international emphasis, the BMI reading series, the publications supported by BMI and the English Department, the Creative Writing program in partnership with BMI also features the Emerging Writers' Series, which hosts writers just developing reputations on the national and international literary scene and who are selected for the series by the Creative Writing students; and the Alumni Reading Series, which invites successful graduates of the program to read on campus and to present to students and the university community.

All students admitted to the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program at UNLV are offered full funding for three years of study. M.F.A. students are supported by the Graduate Assistantship, earned through a combination of teaching, tutoring in the Writing Center, editorial or internship work on BMI or department publications, or by administrative duties to support the program or department. All students are encouraged to be active in the organization of events and activities in partnership with the Department of English and BMI, and to contribute to the mission of the university and to the literary community.

Dr. Denise Tillery, Chair

TBD, Director of Creative Writing and M.F.A. Graduate Coordinator

Mission Statement

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing is a three-year, intensive studio arts terminal degree with a strong international emphasis and requires the writing of a book-length creative thesis in fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry. The objectives of the M.F.A. degree are to enable the student to master the craft of writing in the chosen genre to a publishable level; to train the student in traditional literary studies and in writing pedagogy; and to provide the student with some practical knowledge of literary translation and literary publishing. The goal of the three-year course of studies is to prepare the student for a teaching career at the university, college, or community college level and/or for writing as a profession outside of the academy; to provide the student with an international perspective on the creation, publication, and teaching of the literary arts, specifically fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry; to encourage an appreciation of literature and writing in all its forms in a global context; and to inspire the literary activism of the public intellectual and person of letters.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#), as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student

Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or GradAssociateDean@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the [UNLV Graduate Catalog](#). Faculty must hold the appropriately approved graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information

[Master of Fine Arts – Creative Writing](#)

Contact Information

English Department:

Website

<http://www.unlv.edu/english>

Department Chair

Dr. Denise Tillery, denise.tillery@unlv.edu, RLL 220, 702-895-1258

Director of Graduate Studies/Graduate Coordinator for the MA and PhD

TBD, english.gradcoord@unlv.edu

Director of Creative Writing/Graduate Coordinator for the MFA

TBD

Creative Writing Administrator

Dr. Andy Nicholson, RLL 213, andrew.nicholson@unlv.edu, 702-895-3195

Main Office – Assistant to the Chair & Office Manager

April Fikstad, RLL 221, april.fikstad@unlv.edu, 702-895-4662, Fax 702-895-3653

Graduate Program Office — Graduate Coordinator Assistant

Carlos Tkacz, unlvenglishgradprogram@unlv.edu, 702-895-4366, Fax 702-895-4801

MFA Graduate Coordinator Assistant

Lauren Gleave, RLL 255, mfaunlv@unlv.edu, 702-895-4366, Fax 702-895-4801

Graduate Professional Student Association (GPSA) Representative

englishgpsarep@unlv.edu

Graduate College:

Main Office

GTW 200, gradcollege@unlv.edu, 702-895-4180

International Graduate Student Services

internationalgrad@unlv.edu, 702-895-3367

*Student Financial Services**

gradfinancialsvc@unlv.edu, 702-895-4273

*for help related to Graduate Assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships

*Retention, Progression, and Completion (RPC) Team**

grad.rpc@unlv.edu, 702-895-2702

*for help related to Graduate College forms, requirements, and academic policies

*Graduate Academy: Leadership and Professional Development **

gradrebel@unlv.edu, 702-895-3320

*for non-academic advisement and help related to thesis/dissertation formatting and submission processes, Grad

Rebel events, and other sources of support for UNLV graduate students

Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework and culminating experience for the MFA are found in the graduate catalog](#).

Advisory Committee Guidelines

All MFA students in English will organize a committee of at least three department members, one of whom (the committee chair) serves as the student's advisor. Additionally, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. This committee will guide, examine, and mentor the student throughout the graduate experience. They will also sign many of the forms and documents required after each step in the process. See the [Graduate Catalog](#) for further committee appointment guidelines.

Until they form advisory committees, the Director of Creative Writing serves as academic advisor to all MFA and students.

Degree Program Benchmarks

Subplan 1: International Focus Track

1. Complete required coursework as outlined in the [Graduate Catalog](#).
2. Complete required study abroad of one semester or summer in non-English speaking country (six credits).
3. Organize a committee of at least three departmental members, one of whom is the student's advisor. Additionally, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed.
4. Complete creative thesis. All candidates for the M.F.A. degree are required to write a creative thesis in either poetry, fiction, or literary nonfiction and to complete at least 12 credits toward the creative thesis requirement by intensive work in conference with members of the faculty. The creative thesis for the M.F.A. will be a book-length manuscript and must conform to the guidelines set forth by the Graduate College in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and in its [Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines](#).
5. Defend creative thesis by posted deadline.
6. Submit all required forms to the Graduate College via Graduate Rebel Gateway & apply for graduation.

Sample Program Timeline

Master of Fine Arts – Creative Writing

Subplan 1: International Focus Track

Of the 54 total credits required (see [Graduate Catalog](#) for the kind and number of credit hours that must be taken to complete the degree): Six full-time (from 6 credits with GA to 9 credits without) semesters or three full academic years is the average duration of the program of study for the MFA.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Annual Review Procedures

Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan: Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead. Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each student's submitted IDP and provide acknowledgement that they have reviewed the IDP. Reported student data is shared with students' graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students' strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner. Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

Probation

If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, their department/school will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the [Probation and Separation](#) section of the [Graduate Catalog](#) for more information.

Additional Program Information

Courses

The English Department offers graduate classes at the 600 and 700 levels. Except in extraordinary circumstances and with prior approval of the DGS, MFA students may count only 3 credits of 600-level coursework toward the degree.

600-level classes are cross-listed, and meet in conjunction, with 400-level upper-division undergraduate classes, and graduate enrollment is generally capped at two. Graduate students are required to do additional readings, have different writing requirements, and are often expected to have additional meetings with the instructor outside of class. Because these courses enroll undergraduate, as well as graduate, students, our department can offer a greater number and variety of them in Fall and Spring than we can 700-level courses, and 600-level courses are typically the only graduate courses the department offers in summer (other than independent studies and thesis and dissertation hours).

Generally capped at twelve students, 700-level classes are exclusively designed for, and typically enroll only, graduate students (MA, MFA, and PhD).

Independent study courses (ENG 796), which are variably weighted from one to three credits each, are arranged between individual students and faculty, who together decide on their focus, modality, and requirements. Independent studies are designed to meet curricular needs not met by regular course offerings and to help students prepare for comprehensive and/or qualifying exams. Whenever possible, however, students should enroll in regularly scheduled courses, as full student participation in 700-level courses is necessary to ensure that they can be offered and that they provide a true seminar experience.

Registering for Independent Studies and Thesis Hours

To enroll in ENG 796: Independent Study, ENG 739: Translation, ENG 794: International Component, or ENG 790: MFA Thesis Hours, students must first complete and submit the English Department [Graduate Independent Study Form](#), which requires a description of the proposed course (including objectives, requirements or description of final product, methods of evaluation, and bibliography or reading list), as well as the signatures of the student, instructor, committee chair/advisor (if applicable), and DGS—in that order.

Only once the form is submitted and processed can staff create a section of the course for each student in MyUNLV.

Course Load & Enrollment Policies

The usual full-time graduate course load for Fall and Spring is 9 credits per semester, and GAs must enroll in at least 6 credits per fall/spring semester.

The Graduate College requires both that all graduate students register for 6 graduate credits per every three rolling semesters in order to avoid separation and that all graduate students register for 3 credits in the semester

of graduation.

Financial Support

With very few exceptions, all GAs in English are state-funded, either out of the department's GA budget or out of the GA budgets of the College of Liberal Arts (COLA), Graduate College, and/or Honors College. Exceptions include a limited number of MFA GAs funded by the Provost in support of the literary nonfiction program, as well as Instructional Graduate Assistantships (IGAs) funded out of the Part-Time Instructor (PTI) budget (and for which we must apply every semester or year).

In addition, any graduate student in English may apply for any of the Professional Development Graduate Research Assistantships (PDGRAs) sometimes available in non-degree-granting units on campus (e.g. the Graduate College or Career Services) for which they qualify. (No student, of course, may hold more than one GAship simultaneously.)

Minimum GA stipends are determined by the Graduate College, as is the department's yearly GA budget. The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) determines all student fees. Specific funding amounts and fee information are communicated to students at admission.

MFA GAs currently include a yearly stipend of \$21,000. GAs in the MFA program are funded for up to three academic years or six fall/spring semesters. All GAs must, however, apply for renewal of funding each academic year through the Grad Rebel Gateway, usually in January-February.

Extension funding (or funding beyond the time period originally stipulated) may be possible, subject to availability of GA funds and based on student progress toward degree and other factors. Students interested in extension funding should notify the DGS no later than their final semester of regular funding.

Department funding for research-related travel is available to all graduate students through application to the Research Resources Committee, with conference-travel funding often dependent on the student's having a paper accepted for presentation. Although students must apply in advance for travel funding, funding is available only through reimbursement. The Graduate Professional Student Association (GPSA) also offers competitive [travel grants](#), as well as [book scholarships](#), by application.

Additionally, the department often invites graduate students to apply for its [Dorothy Mae Freischel Scholarships](#), while the Graduate College offers several [fellowships and scholarships](#) for MA, MFA, and PhD students, as well as [Emergency Graduate Retention Awards](#). Applications for most Graduate College fellowships and scholarships are due 1 December of the previous calendar year (i.e. December 2025 for fellowships to be held Summer 2026–Spring 2027). (Exceptions currently include the Grad Rebel Doctoral Finishing Fellowship, the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship, and the UNLV Graduate Access Childcare Scholarship.)

Annual Awards

Each year, our department awards at least one [Brooks Family/Chris Hudgins English Literary Essay Award](#) to an essay written for an English graduate course by a full-time English MA, MFA, or PhD student. Essays are nominated by English Department faculty, and winners are judged anonymously by a faculty committee. The award carries a cash honorarium ranging, in recent years, from \$250 (for runners-up/honorable mentions) to \$1000 (for first prize).

Our department also awards at least one Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award each year. The winner of this award is then nominated for the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, competing for the chance to be the COLA nominee for the [university-wide Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award](#). Applications for the department award are generally due in September or October (in response to a call for applications from the DGS), and they are reviewed by an ad-hoc faculty committee appointed by the Graduate Studies Committee. In recent years, we have been able to offer winners of this award a cash honorarium of \$100–200. Winners of the UNLV Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award generally receive \$1500 (for third place), \$2000 (for second), and \$2500 (for first).

The department may also nominate one MA or MFA thesis and one PhD dissertation to be the COLA nominees for the annual [UNLV Graduate College Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards](#), which generally carry a cash prize of \$750 and \$1000 respectively. To be considered for the department Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation awards, graduating students should email an electronic copy of their final, properly formatted thesis or dissertation to the DGS, indicating that they would like to be considered. (The DGS will invite all graduate students to submit their theses/dissertations and will also ensure that all submissions are shared only with faculty on the department Graduate Studies Committee.) Department winners will be chosen by the Graduate Studies Committee. Each

year's competition takes place in the Fall and is open to all thesis/dissertation students who successfully defended the previous fall through summer semesters (December-August). Students in our MFA and PhDs programs were selected as winners of the 2019, 2020, 2023, and 2024 COLA Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards, with the MA/MFA theses going on to win the UNLV Outstanding Thesis (Non-STEM) Award in 2019, 2020, and 2023.

Assignment of GA Duties

Our department offers its GAs an unusually wide array of both teaching and non-teaching opportunities and training. Beyond the classroom, our GAs tutor in the UNLV Writing Center and Honors College and serve as faculty research assistants. They collaborate in producing both academic journals (*MELUS*) and literary magazines (*Witness*, *Interim*). They may gain experience in mentorship, curriculum development and assessment, administration, and social media by assisting our Directors of Composition, Creative Writing, Graduate Studies, and Undergraduate Studies.

The Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Creative Writing, and Director of Composition coordinate GA assignments, in consultation as necessary with supervisors in other units (e.g., Honors College, Black Mountain Institute [BMI], Writing Center).

Generally, in their first year, MFA GAs are assigned full time (20 hours per week) to the Writing Center. Honors College GAs (generally MFAs appointed upon admission, based on Graduate Studies Committee rankings of Fall applicants) serve as writing consultants in the Honors College. Exceptions may be made in unusual circumstances. In their second year, MFA GAs are expected to take ENG 791 and to teach two sections of ENG 101 (freshman composition).

Some online teaching might be possible, based on students' preparation and availability of courses. All course assignments are made based on student enrollments and availability of sections, and there is no guarantee of a specific assignment. Decisions about teaching schedules are made during the semester prior, and final decisions are made by the department chair.

Non-teaching GA assignments, except for work in the Writing Center and Honors College, are generally made based on an application process or by request of an individual faculty member (in the case of research assistantships). The nature and availability of such positions depends upon budgetary constraints and teaching needs, and more thus tend to be available in Spring. Though, again, the availability of no position is guaranteed, our non-teaching positions in recent years have included the following:

- Graduate Coordinator Assistant/DGS;
- Graduate Coordinator Assistant/Director of Creative Writing;
- Composition Graduate Assistant Directors (GADs)/Director of Composition;
- Research Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies;
- UNLV Writing Center Lead Consultant/Director of the Writing Center immediate supervisor;
- Editorial Assistant to *MELUS* (ed. Gary Totten);
- Editorial Assistants (of various kinds) to one of two literary magazines (varying number of positions, usually open to all GAs), *Interim* (ed. Claudia Keelan) and *Witness*;
- Research Assistant to a designated faculty member (varying number of positions, usually open to all GAs).

Most non-teaching positions are part-time (10 hours per week), and students are generally prohibited from holding multiple such positions simultaneously. Efforts are made to rotate students through these positions as possible, and the department is always looking for new and varied non-teaching opportunities for our students.

Calls for applications for non-teaching positions generally come from the DGS, Director of Creative Writing, or Graduate Coordinator Assistants. Applications are vetted by the relevant immediate supervisor, who makes recommendations to the department chair. The department chair makes all final decisions on assignments based on department need and availability of positions and also serves as the ultimate supervisor of all GAs in the Department of English.

Volunteer opportunities with our journals and magazines may be available and open to any student (including non GAs), which could lead to more formal assignments for GAs. And interested students are encouraged to contact the appropriate editor/immediate supervisor listed above for more information.

Additional Work for GAs

GAs may—with permission—work an additional 10 hours per week (or the equivalent). Such work must contribute to (rather than detract from) their academic and professional development and must be formally approved every

semester or year, as appropriate. (Please first speak with your advisor and the DGS, then submit the GA Request for Additional Employment Form available in the Grad Rebel Gateway under “Additional Forms.”)

Additional work must be pre-arranged by you and an employer. (In other words, the GA Request for Additional Employment Form does not secure you a job, only permission to take one already offered to you.) No GA in our department will be hired to teach an additional course within the department. GAs may apply to teach one additional course for another department, program, or institution, but such requests will generally be approved only for advanced students making good progress and having a compelling rationale specific to a given teaching opportunity. Regardless, please be aware that extra paid work will affect your tax status, at least or especially if you work at UNLV or another NSHE institution. (Please consult the [Graduate Catalog](#) and Graduate Financial Services for further information.)

Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form [Formerly known as the Student Annual Review]. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead.

Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each students’ submitted IDP and provide acknowledgement that they have reviewed the IDP.

Reported student data are shared with students’ graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students’ strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner.

Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

University Resources

The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development

The goal of the Graduate Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

Alumni Engagement

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the [commencement office](#) is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for [graduation on time](#) and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College [Student Services Team](#) and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College [RPC Team](#).

Institutional Engagement and Experience

The vision of the [Institutional Engagement and Experience](#) is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s engagement mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office is housed under the Division of Human Resources and also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Graduate Appeals and Issue Resolution

The Office of Graduate Student Services at the Graduate College assists graduate and professional students with addressing concerns and overcoming personal, academic, or financial challenges that might hinder their ability to be successful in their program. The office also provides information and student-centered issue-resolution services and offers guidance, information, and assistance when regular channels have failed to provide graduate students with the information they need to solve problems. Please see website for more information: <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/appeals-issue-resolution>

UNLV Global and the Office of International Student and Scholar Compliance

International Student and Scholar Compliance (ISSC) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

The Care Center

The Care Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

The Intersection is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility is a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;

- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Military and Veteran Services Center

The [Military and Veteran Service Center](#) is staffed with veterans and veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active-duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The [Financial Aid & Scholarships Office](#) supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)
- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

UNLV does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities, including admissions, on the basis of sex/gender pursuant to Title IX, or on the basis of any other legally protected category as is set forth in NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13. Reports of discriminatory misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and/or concerns about noncompliance with Title IX or any other anti-discrimination laws or policies should be directed to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator Michelle Sposito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the [online reporting form](#), by email at titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu, by phone at (702) 895-4055, by mail at 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451062, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-1062, or in person at Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH), Room 555.

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary
4/04/25	John Hay, Director of Graduate Studies	Creation of stand-alone MFA handbook (Dept vote: 23 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain)