

MA degree portfolio and MFA creative writing thesis accepted for defense will include the following:

- 1)** A critical-reflective essay—minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 pages (double-spaced)—that contains
 - a)* an account of your goals at the start of the program, during the program, and at the present time;
 - b)* an articulation of your selection process/creative work for the portfolio/creative writing thesis;
 - c)* an account of the draft/revision process with illustrative examples;
 - d)* a contextualization of the included materials within your course of study and within the relevant professional, creative and/or academic field; and
 - e)* an outline of your aspirations and plans for your profession or vocation going forward.

- 2)** The body of this exit project will contain one of the following:
 - a.* for the MA, three additional academic artifacts selected to represent both the breadth of the coursework taken and the range of the candidate's abilities and approved by the student's defense chair; or
 - b.* for the MFA, a coherent collection of creative writings; a substantial single-focused creative work; two or more independent works/parts of works approved by the student's defense chair.

- 3)** An up-to-date curriculum vitae.

Critical-reflective essay evaluation criteria:

- I.** The account of your goals at the start of the program, during the program, and at the present time is thorough and specific.
- II.** The articulation of your selection process for the portfolio contents is attentive to detail and persuasively describes how each item exemplifies the development of your creative, intellectual and/or professional skills.
- III.** The description of the essay-revision process details how the revision improved the quality of the scholarship, especially in terms of the specific criteria for the critical essay described in section 7, below.
- IV.** The contextualization of the included materials, within your course of study and within the relevant professional, creative and/or academic field is thoughtful.
- V.** The outline of your aspirations and plans for your profession or vocation going forward is clear and relevant to your coursework and goals.

Supporting materials evaluation criteria:

- VI.** The materials selected for inclusion provide substantial evidence for the claims of personal and intellectual development that the candidate has articulated in the critical-reflective essay.
- VII.** The critical-analytical essay demonstrates a sophisticated awareness of the scholarly conversations concerning the object of inquiry, is closely and persuasively reasoned, attends ethically to all available evidence, and is measured and judicious in its conclusions.
- VIII.** Care has been taken with the presentation of the materials, and the order of items follows the logic outlined in the reflective essay.
- IX.** Stylistic and formatting decisions are consistent with the conventions of the artifacts included.
- X.** The prose demonstrates a developed, scholarly voice well-suited for the particular discipline (e.g., literary criticism, rhetorical or linguistic analysis, creative non-fiction) and is well-edited.