

**LEHMAN COLLEGE/CUNY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**Letter of Intent to Establish a Master of Fine Arts Program  
in Creative Writing with Concentrations in Poetry and Fiction**

Name of College: Lehman College, The City University of New York

Name of Sponsoring Department: Department of English

Official Name of Program: Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing

Degree to be Awarded: Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Anticipated Date for Implementation of the Program: September 2012

Date of Departmental Approval: February 2, 2011

Date of Lehman College Faculty Senate Approval: **XXX**

Institutional Representative: Dr. Mary Papazian, Provost

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**LEHMAN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK****MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA) IN CREATIVE WRITING*****PROPOSAL ABSTRACT***

Lehman College proposes to establish a graduate program leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing, with concentrations in poetry and fiction. The program hopes to enroll its first students in the fall of 2012. The proposed MFA in Creative Writing offers students intensive training in creative writing and a solid grounding in traditional English studies.

*Creative Writing:* The MFA program will provide students with rigorous training and feedback in the craft of poetry or fiction. Workshops and craft courses will be small and tightly managed to ensure the intensive mentorship and meaningful peer-review essential to the honing of craft, and the development of effective and lasting writing communities.

*English Studies:* The MFA program will ground students' creative training in traditional English studies. Both poetry and fiction students will share a common core set of courses. We view this disciplinary grounding as essential to the training of creative writers, giving them fluency in the reading and interpretation of literature, and experience with alternative modes of writing.

*Cultural Diversity.* The cultural diversity of the student body at Lehman provides a rich talent pool for a new MFA program in Creative Writing to draw upon. Many Lehman students have strong cultural ties to their local communities. These students might be tempted to pursue an MFA in the Bronx if such a degree were available at Lehman; they might not pursue an MFA at all if it were not.

*Small by Design:* With the exception of Hunter's and Queen's, the other MFA programs in the city typically admit 30 or more students per year; the largest programs, Columbia and The New School, admit between 110 and 140 students, and enroll between 60 and 280 students overall. The Lehman MFA program plans to admit 10 students per year in each of the two genres of poetry and fiction, totaling 20 new students admitted each year and 40 total students enrolled at any one time. The Lehman MFA will feature intimate workshop settings and a close-knit community environment. Students will receive careful and attentive mentorship from their writing professors and form meaningful professional relationships with both their professors and their peers.

**LEHMAN COLLEGE**  
**CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**Proposal to Establish**

**A Master of Fine Arts Program (MFA) in Creative Writing**

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## I. Purposes and Goals

Lehman College proposes to establish a graduate program leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing, with concentrations in poetry and fiction. The program hopes to enroll its first students in the fall of 2012. The Lehman MFA will offer advanced degree training to students who wish to gain expertise in the writing of poetry and fiction. It assumes that, as in music or the visual arts, the best education for the artist includes: training in the history and traditions associated with the student's discipline, training in theoretical and formal approaches to the craft, and extensive practice with critique of student work by peers and faculty writers. The program combines studio and academic approaches, providing the student with substantial critical workshop experience and a solid background in theory and literature.

### *Program Goals and Objectives*

Students graduating with an MFA in Creative Writing will:

- Gain a fuller knowledge of the theoretical and historical contexts for the writing and reception of poetry and prose fiction, demonstrating an enhanced knowledge of
  - Literary history and the canons of American, English and World literatures
  - The forms, genres and aesthetic principles of literatures in English
- Develop the discipline and behaviors appropriate to a professional writer, specifically by enhancing their abilities to
  - Create a body of publishable poetry or fiction
  - Read and critique the work of others while providing editorial feedback, as well as copyediting, formatting, stylistic, and structural recommendations
  - Deliver/perform their creative work to a wider audience via individual and group readings, and other talks, panels, and lectures.

### *Career Objectives*

Students graduating with an MFA in Creative Writing will:

- Have a publishable body of work ready for submission to literary agents and publishers
- Be qualified to teach literature, composition, and creative writing at the college level
- Have reading, writing, and critical thinking skills valuable to multiple professional industries based in the humanities, i.e. editing, publicity, marketing, and/or promotion in publishing, arts and entertainment, foundations, and multimedia management.

## II. Need and Justification

### **A. National Needs**

According to *Poets and Writers* magazine's 2011 MFA rankings, there are 148 full-residency and 46 low-residency MFA programs in the country<sup>1</sup>. The number of MFA programs in the U.S. has increased consistently over the last forty years due to market demand.

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<sup>1</sup> Seth Abramson, *2011 Poets & Writers Magazine Ranking of MFA Programs: A Guide to the Methodology*, [http://www.pw.org/content/2011\\_poets\\_amp\\_writers\\_magazine\\_ranking\\_of\\_mfa\\_programs](http://www.pw.org/content/2011_poets_amp_writers_magazine_ranking_of_mfa_programs)

**B. Regional and Local Needs**

Establishing a Lehman MFA is concordant with Lehman's mission: to serve "the Bronx and surrounding region as an intellectual...and cultural center...embracing diversity and actively engaging students... Recognized for small classes, close interaction between students and faculty... Lehman College is committed to providing the highest quality education in a caring and supportive environment where respect, integrity, inquiry, creativity, and diversity contribute to individual achievement and the transformation of lives and communities."

No institution in the Bronx currently offers an MFA in Creative Writing. Only Fordham University offers a related degree—an MA in English with a Writing Concentration—but this is not a terminal degree and is therefore not comparable to the MFA in an increasingly competitive publishing and job market.

The cultural diversity of the student body at Lehman provides a rich and unique talent pool for a new MFA program in Creative Writing to draw upon. At present, Lehman is 45% Hispanic, 29% Black/Non-Hispanic, 17% White/Non-Hispanic, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4% Non-Resident/Alien; it is also 70% female. The linguistic and cultural wealth of this population bodes well for a diverse MFA program in the present, and, in the future, for a culturally broad range of new Lehman-trained voices in the American literary marketplace that is constantly adopting new voices while expanding opportunities via new reading and book-buying technologies.

Finally, many Lehman students have strong cultural ties to their local communities. As a survey conducted by the Lehman English department suggests (see III-A below), these students might be tempted to pursue an MFA in the Bronx if such a degree were available at Lehman; they might not pursue an MFA at all if it were not.

**C. Institutional Needs**

Within CUNY, there are four MFA programs in creative writing: Brooklyn, Queens, City, and Hunter. In New York, the most notable programs outside of CUNY are Columbia, Sarah Lawrence, NYU, and The New School. The Department views the creation of a Lehman College MFA in Creative Writing as a less expensive alternative to those offered by our neighboring private institutions, as well as a unique development within the CUNY system by virtue of its being the only MFA program in the Bronx.

The Lehman MFA would be a smaller program than most of these other programs—by design. With the exception of Hunter's and Queens', all of the other programs in the city typically admit 30 or more students per year; the largest, Columbia and The New School, admit between 110 and 140 students. Since these programs typically take at least two years to complete, this means that they enroll between 60 and 280 students overall.

In the first five years, the Lehman MFA program plans to admit only 10 students per year in each of the two genres of poetry and fiction: 20 students admitted each year and 40 total students enrolled at any one time. As is the case with the majority of MFA programs (and so our enrollment projections will show in Table B) the goal is to admit full-time students and retain

them through a two-year period of study leading to the completion of the degree. This is a viable and sustainable projection due to the fact that four of the eight MFA programs in New York City are currently ranked by *Poets and Writers* in the top 25<sup>2</sup> (NYU-9; Brooklyn-18; Hunter-20; Columbia-25; The New School is ranked 30, and Sarah Lawrence is ranked 50; Queens and City are not ranked by this poll).

Institutions are particularly reticent regarding acceptance rates to their MFA programs, and acceptance rates are difficult to calculate accurately or trust upon publication due to the fact that yield percentage is seldom a part of the equation. That said, and to use one example, our informal research estimates that Hunter's MFA program receives approximately three- to four hundred applications each year but accepts only 18 students each year across three genres. If one puts the number of estimated applicants at three hundred applicants, 18 new students from that pool would be a 6% acceptance rate, which is comparable to the acceptance rates of the top law schools in the nation.<sup>3</sup>

The Lehman MFA hopes to draw from this fertile applicant pool and the competitiveness of its neighboring programs. Students not accepted by neighboring programs could potentially find an additional opportunity in Lehman's new and developing program that will provide students with small, intimate workshop settings and a close-knit community environment.

Table A below compares the typical annual enrollment of MFA programs within the metropolitan area along with the number of credits required for graduation:

**TABLE A: ENROLLMENTS IN NYC-AREA MFA PROGRAMS**

Program	Credits	Typical Annual Enrollment of New Students
Lehman (proposed)	36	20 per year: 10 poetry / 10 fiction
Brooklyn College	36	30 per year: 15 fiction / 10 poetry / 5 playwriting
City College	42	55 per year: 30-35 fiction / 15-20 poetry / 2-3 nonfiction
Queens College	36	20 per year for two tracks: creative writing and translation
Hunter College	36	18 per year: 6 poetry / 6 fiction / 6 non-fiction
Columbia	60	110 per year: 40-50 fiction / 30-35 poetry / 30-35 non-fiction
Sarah Lawrence	36	70 per year: 25 fiction / 25 poetry / 20 non-fiction
NYU	32	35-50 per year: 20-30 fiction / 15-20 poetry
The New School	36	120-140 per year: 40-45 fiction / 30-35 poetry / 40-45 non-fiction / 10-15 writing for children

<sup>2</sup> Seth Abramson, *2011 MFA Rankings: The Top Fifty*, [http://www.pw.org/content/2011\\_mfa\\_rankings\\_the\\_top\\_fifty\\_0](http://www.pw.org/content/2011_mfa_rankings_the_top_fifty_0)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ilrg.com/rankings/law/index.php/1/asc/Accept>

### **III. Students**

#### **A. Demand for a Graduate Degree in Creative Writing**

The English Department's undergraduate program in creative writing has developed to the point of producing serious writers who want to pursue advanced degrees in creative writing. In the past five years, students who have attended Lehman have gone on to pursue MFA's at The New School, American University, Louisiana State University, and City College. Currently there are students who have recently graduated or will be graduating in the next year who are applying to MFA programs in the area and nationally.

In March 2011, the Department conducted a survey via direct mail of students who had graduated from Lehman with a BA in English. The poll showed 84% of respondents would have been interested in applying to an MFA in Creative Writing at Lehman upon graduation. But only 29% of those respondents actually did go on to apply to MFA programs. This suggests strong interest in an MFA program at Lehman among our own students. (See appendix for complete survey tool.)

#### **Survey details:**

- 215 surveys issued
- 16% response rate of 35 respondents
- 84% of respondents (29 of 35) would have been interested in applying to an MFA program at Lehman College
- Only 29% of respondents with an interest in applying to a Lehman MFA (8 of 29) actually went on to apply to MFA programs

#### **B. Student Recruitment Strategy**

An MFA program in Creative Writing at Lehman College would offer the public a valuable educational opportunity in the Bronx as well as in Westchester and Rockland counties. The Lehman program would offer prospective students a traditional MFA experience at a fraction of the cost of the private institutions offering similar degrees nearby such as Sarah Lawrence, Fordham, and Columbia. Indeed, as the only MFA program in Creative Writing in the Bronx, we would expect to absorb market share from Sarah Lawrence College and Fordham University.

The Lehman MFA will be promoted in tandem with the newly revised MA in English with concentrations in Literature and Composition Studies. Letters and brochures will be mailed to local and regional high school teachers of English in hopes of recruiting individuals needing their MA degrees to complete teacher certification. In the past this was an effective recruiting strategy and we hope to rekindle relationships with past feeder schools while paving new paths.

We will also work with the EO of the Department of English at the CUNY Graduate Center, a Lehman faculty member, to tap into the GC's applicant pool. Potentially we will contact and recruit individuals who may not be prepared to pursue a PhD and are looking for alternatives, or those who wish to investigate additional creative writing options.

We hope to have a small budget in 2012-2013 for print and online advertising in field journals such as *The Writers Chronicle* and to attend conferences such as the Associated Writing Programs.

We will work with Lehman's Admissions office to coordinate a series of open house events to attract candidates specifically for the MFA, so candidates can meet faculty, tour campus, and learn more about the program and the area.

Table B below shows an enrollment projection for the Lehman MFA program over the next five years, based on a total of 36 credits (12 courses) to be completed in 4 consecutive semesters at a rate of 9 credits (3 courses) per semester:

**TABLE B: ENROLLMENT PROJECTION FOR LEHMAN MFA (5 YEARS)**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>New Students at the start of Academic Year</b>	<b>Continuing Students at the start of Academic Year</b>	<b>Total Students at the Start of Academic Year</b>
2012-2013	20	--	20
2013-2014	20	20	40
2014-2015	20	20	40
2015-2016	20	20	40
2016-2017	20	20	40

\*Anticipated attrition rate of 15% will be replenished by students admitted mid-year, and by those who convert to part-time enrollment. The anticipated attrition rate was based on an informal poll of Lehman faculty and information from other comparable programs.

#### **IV. Curriculum**

The Lehman Department of English will support the proposed MFA curriculum. After planning his or her program in advance with the Graduate Program Director, a student must complete a minimum of 36 credits in English and creative writing with an average of B or better. Eighteen credits must be in common core courses and 18 credits in the student's chosen concentration of poetry or fiction. Students will be encouraged to enroll in a full course-load of nine credits each semester, so that the program will be completed in four semesters. Students will also be required to fulfill a foreign language requirement.



**A. Admission Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
- Demonstration of the potential to pursue graduate study successfully—that is, attainment of a minimum undergraduate Grade Point Average of 3.0 in the undergraduate record as a whole and a 3.0 in English/writing courses.
- Study of a minimum of 18 credit hours in courses beyond the introductory level in English/creative writing.
- GRE General Test.
- Submission of three letters of recommendation, at least two of which must be from a person who can testify to the candidate's ability as a creative writer and a student of literature.
- Submission of a personal statement of 500 words indicating as precisely as possible the applicant's preparation for master's work and interest in creative writing.
- Submission of a writing sample. For poetry students, at least 5 poems totaling 10-12 pages. For fiction students, a 12-25 page sample of short fiction or excerpt from a longer work. One short story is preferred, but multiple stories can be submitted to meet the minimum page requirement.

**B. Proposed Graduate Curriculum**

The requirements of the proposed 36-credit Master of Fine Arts degree program are as follows:  
*(All are existing courses, except where noted.)*

**ENGLISH CORE REQUIREMENT (18 credits)**

The core courses requirement entails the completion of six courses at the graduate level:

ENG 700 <i>or</i> 702	Introduction to English Studies <i>or</i> Introduction to Critical Theory (3)
ENG 784 <i>or</i> 785	Readings in Composition and Rhetoric <i>or</i> Seminar in Writing (3)
ENG 700-level	Literature electives, three separate courses (9)
ENG 795	Master's Research (3)

**POETRY CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENT (18 credits)**

The poetry concentration requirement entails the completion of 6 courses at the graduate level:

ENW 701	Poetry Workshop, repeated three times (9) <i>(new course)</i>
ENW 711	Forms & Techniques in Poetry, repeated twice (6) <i>(new course)</i>
ENW 721	Thesis Workshop in Poetry (3) <i>(new course)</i>

*Or*

**FICTION CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENT (18 credits)**

The fiction concentration requirement entails the completion of six courses at the graduate level:

ENW 702	Fiction Workshop, repeated three times (9) <i>(new course)</i>
ENW 712	Forms & Techniques in Fiction, repeated twice (6) <i>(new course)</i>
ENW 722	Thesis Workshop in Fiction (3) <i>(new course)</i>

**C. Sample Sequence of Courses (Poetry Candidate)**

Semester 1:

ENG 702	Introduction to Critical Theory
ENW 701	Poetry Workshop (first time)

## ENG 711      Forms &amp; Techniques in Poetry (first time)

## Semester 2:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (first course)
ENW 701	Poetry Workshop (second time)
ENW 711	Forms & Techniques in Poetry (second time)

## Semester 3:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (second course)
ENW 701	Poetry Workshop (third time)
ENG 784	Readings in Composition and Rhetoric

## Semester 4:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (third course)
ENW 721	Thesis Workshop in Poetry
ENG 795	Master's Research

**D. Sample Sequence of Courses (Fiction Candidate)**

## Semester 1:

ENG 700	Introduction to English Studies
ENW 702	Fiction Workshop (first time)
ENG 712	Forms & Techniques in Poetry (first time)

## Semester 2:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (first course)
ENW 702	Poetry Workshop (second time)
ENW 712	Forms & Techniques in Poetry (second time)

## Semester 3:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (second course)
ENW 702	Poetry Workshop (third time)
ENG 784	Readings in Composition and Rhetoric

## Semester 4:

ENG 700-level	Literature elective (third course)
ENW 722	Thesis Workshop in Poetry
ENG 795	Master's Research

**E. Foreign Language Requirement**

The foreign language requirement will emphasize the relationship between the knowledge of foreign languages and the study of literature and the practice of writing. Early in their studies, students will choose a language relevant to their writing and reading and/or to their future professional plans. The requirement may be satisfied by (1) demonstrating the ability to translate lucidly, with a dictionary, a passage from a modern critical text; or (2) earning a B or better within the past five years in (a) an intensive language-for-reading course offered through the Language Reading Program at the CUNY Graduate Center or (b) two advanced undergraduate courses in literature read in the foreign language. *NOTE: The following languages will automatically be accepted for meeting this requirement: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kiswahili, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Yoruba. Students wishing to choose another language must apply to the Department's Graduate Committee for approval.*

**F. Thesis Requirement**

MFA students will be required to submit a final creative thesis prepared in conjunction with both the thesis workshop in their chosen genre (ENW 721 or ENW 722) and the course in Master's Research (ENG 795).

Students will be advised to secure a working relationship with a faculty advisor by the time they have completed 18 credits. They will also be advised to enroll in ENG 795 simultaneously with ENW 721 or ENW 722; these two courses can be taken separately, however, with the approval of the Graduate Program Director.

The thesis must be a book of publishable quality. Poetry candidates will be required to submit a collection or cycle of poems totaling 48-64 pages; fiction candidates will be required to submit a collection of short stories, a novella, or a novel totaling at least 100 pages. The final thesis will be read by the faculty advisor and a second reader approved by the Graduate Program Director. Two copies of the creative thesis approved by the faculty advisor—one in electronic format (.pdf), one in print—will be submitted to the Graduate Program Director.

**V. Faculty****A. Existing Faculty**

Core Lehman College faculty members participating in the new graduate degree program are listed in Table C below. Courses taught by existing faculty will not compromise offerings within the existing MA or have any adverse affects on faculty workloads. Each faculty member is fully qualified to teach the pertinent courses listed in Table C.

**TABLE C: LEHMAN COLLEGE CORE MFA FACULTY  
AND COURSES TO BE TAUGHT**

Course title	Faculty assigned to each course (all full-time)	Highest earned degree and discipline; college or university	Relevant other experience; certificates	Recent scholarly contributions
ENG 700: Introduction to English Studies	Paula Loscocco	PhD in English; Boston College	NEH Fellowship, 2003-2004	<i>The Printed Works of Katherine Philips (1630-1664)</i> , 3 vols. (Ashgate, 2007)
ENG 702: Introduction to Critical Theory	Siraj Ahmed	PhD in English; Columbia University	NEH Fellowship 2005-2006	Book forthcoming in 2011 by Stanford University Press
ENG 784: Readings in Composition and Rhetoric	Jessica Yood	PhD in English; University at Stony Brook		Two books under review and several articles published

ENG 785: Seminar in Writing: Practice and Theory	Tyler Schmidt	PhD in English; CUNY Graduate Center		Book accepted for publication by University of Missouri Press
ENW 701: Poetry Workshop	Salita Bryant	PhD in English, University of Mississippi; MFA in Poetry, New York University	2005 Pushcart Prize nomination	Numerous publications in literary journals, plus awards, presentations, and invited talks
ENW 702: Fiction Workshop	Terrence Cheng	MFA in Fiction, University of Miami (FL)	NEA Fellowship, 2006-2007	Two novels published, plus short stories and essays
ENW 711: Forms and Techniques in Poetry	Billy Collins	PhD in English, University of California, Riverside	Former U.S. Poet Laureate	Several books of poetry
ENW 712: Forms and Techniques in Fiction	Terrence Cheng	MFA in Fiction, University of Miami (FL)	NEA Fellowship, 2006-2007	Two novels published, plus short stories and essays
ENW 721: Thesis Workshop (Poetry)	Salita Bryant	PhD in English, University of Mississippi; MFA in Poetry, New York University	2005 Pushcart Prize nomination	Numerous publications in literary journals, plus awards, presentations, and invited talks
ENW 722: Thesis Workshop (Fiction)	Terrence Cheng	MFA in Fiction, University of Miami (FL)	NEA Fellowship, 2006-2007	Two novels published, plus short stories and essays
ENG 795: Master's Research	Grace Bullaro	PhD in English/Comp.Lit. SUNY - Stony Brook		<i>From Terrone to Extracomunitario</i> (Troubador 2010) <i>Man in Disorder</i> (Troubador 2007) <i>Beyond Life is Beautiful</i> (Troubador 2005)

**B. New Faculty**

Though the program can launch with existing faculty and departmental administration, we hope to hire one full-time instructor to direct the program long-term and to teach either poetry or fiction writing. Thereafter, we are proposing to hire an assistant professor to begin in Fall 2013, to teach in the genre that the program director does not, to round out a full complement of creative writing faculty.

## **VI. Cost and Revenue Assessments**

The new program will not affect the needs of Lehman College Library, Lehman's central information resources, or other student services such as parking, cafeteria, and health center. No additional space will be required in Fall 2012. The following tables show the cost and revenue estimates of the new program.

**TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FOR  
THE PROPOSED MFA PROGRAM\***

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>Faculty: New Resources</b>	One Assistant Professor at \$68,024 salary plus \$20,407 fringe          <b>TOTAL: \$88,431</b>	One Assistant Professor at \$68,024 salary plus \$20,407 fringe  Total this year's new hire: \$88,431  Total previous year's new hire: \$88,431  <b>TOTAL : \$176,862</b>	          <b>TOTAL: \$176,862</b>	          <b>TOTAL: \$176,862</b>	          <b>TOTAL : \$176,862</b>
<b>Equipment: New Resources</b>	Computer hardware (for one new faculty member): \$2,000  Relevant software: \$1,000  Supplies (one faculty): \$1,000  <b>TOTAL: \$4,000</b>	Computer hardware (for one new faculty member): \$2,000  Relevant software: \$1,000  Supplies (two faculty): \$2,000  <b>TOTAL: \$5,000</b>	       Supplies (two faculty): \$2,000  <b>TOTAL: \$2,000</b>	       Supplies (two faculty): \$2,000  <b>TOTAL: \$2,000</b>	       Supplies (two faculty): \$2,000  <b>TOTAL: \$2,000</b>
<b>Other New Resources</b>					
<b>TOTAL New Resources</b>	<b>\$92,431</b>	<b>\$181,862</b>	<b>\$178,862</b>	<b>\$178,862</b>	<b>\$178,862</b>

\* Salary is projected at \$68,024, as per current PSC-CUNY Agreement. The amount is kept constant for five years as it coincides with the last step before longevity. Fringe benefits are calculated at 31% of projected salary.

**TABLE 2: PROJECTED REVENUES RELATED TO  
THE PROPOSED MFA PROGRAM\***

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b><i>Tuition Revenue:**</i></b>					
01. From Existing Resources	0	0	0	0	0
02. From New Sources					
03. Total	\$162,160	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320
	\$162,160	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320
<b><i>State Revenue:</i></b>					
04. From Existing Resources	No formula for additional aid				
05. From New Sources	0				
06. Total	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0
<b><i>Grand Total:</i></b>					
07. From New Sources	\$162,160	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320	\$324,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$162,160</b>	<b>\$324,320</b>	<b>\$324,320</b>	<b>\$324,320</b>	<b>\$324,320</b>

**\* Based on a total of 12 courses to be completed in 4 consecutive semesters at a rate of 3 courses per semester.**

**\*\* Formula for per-student tuition revenue: number of full-time students X \$4,054 per semester tuition and fees for NYS residents X 2 semesters:**

**First year: 20 students x \$4,054 x 2 semesters = \$162, 160 per year**

**After first year: 40 students x \$4,054 x 2 semesters = \$324,320 per year.**

**Revenues are likely to be higher since some students will be out-of-state or international.**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Student Survey Letter**

March 2011

Dear English Department Graduate,

The Department of English at Lehman College is currently preparing a proposal for a new graduate program in the Department: the MFA in Creative Writing with specializations in Fiction and Poetry. We are sending you this survey to gauge interest in such a program. The ability for a program such as this to attract undergraduates from Lehman will be important in the assessment.

If you could take a moment to fill out the brief survey we have provided here, and then mail it back in the self-addressed stamped envelope we have included with the survey, we would greatly appreciate it.

**All surveys must be returned by Tuesday, March 22, so please fill out the brief survey and send it back in the SASE right away.**

This is an anonymous survey so there is no need to provide any additional information other than checks for pertinent answers to the survey. We greatly appreciate your attention to this matter and your support in this initiative.

You can email me with any questions ([professorcheng@gmail.com](mailto:professorcheng@gmail.com)), and thanks again for your time.

Sincerely,

Terrence Cheng  
Chair



**Appendix 1a**

**Student Survey Tool**

**LEHMAN COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING SURVEY  
MARCH 2011**

\*Please circle one option per statement.

1. Upon graduating from Lehman College, I WOULD / WOULD NOT have been interested in applying to an MFA program at Lehman.

2. Upon graduating from Lehman College, I WAS / WAS NOT interested in applying to ANY MFA program.

3. Upon graduating from Lehman College, I DID / DID NOT apply to MFA programs.

## Proposed New Courses

LEHMAN COLLEGE  
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### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

#### CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of change:** New course
2. **Course Description:** ENW 701: Poetry Workshop. 3 hours, 3 credits. (*To repeated three times for credit and craft development.*) Intensive writing and workshop discussion of student poems supplemented by selected readings. PREREQ: Departmental permission.
3. **Rationale:** ENW 701 is the primary course for craft development for students concentrating in poetry writing. Its repetition is necessary and invaluable in that it ensures the time and impetus to write, and requisite feedback from student and faculty readers alike. Workshops will be taught by a different instructor each semester to ensure different angles and points of view for students.
4. **Learning Objectives:**  
At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Poetry will be able to:
  - Create both short and long-form works of poetry, working toward a collection of poems.
  - Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
  - Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
  - Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.
5. **Date of English Department Approval:** February 22, 2011

**LEHMAN COLLEGE  
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**CURRICULUM CHANGE**

1. **Type of change:** New course

2. **Course Description:** **ENW 702: Fiction Workshop.** *3 hours, 3 credits. (To be repeated three times for credit and craft development.)* Intensive writing and workshop discussion of student stories supplemented by selected readings. PREREQ: Departmental permission.

3. **Rationale:** ENW 702 is the primary course for craft development for students concentrating in fiction writing. Its repetition is necessary and invaluable in that it ensures the time and impetus to write, and requisite feedback from student and faculty readers alike. Workshops will be taught by a different instructor each semester to ensure different angles and points of view for students.

4. **Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Fiction will be able to:

- Create short works of fiction, and begin developing longer forms of fiction, working toward a collection of short fiction, a novella, or a novel.
- Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
- Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**CURRICULUM CHANGE**

1. **Type of change:** New course

2. **Course Description:** **ENW 711: Forms and Techniques in Poetry.** *3 hours, 3 credits. (To be repeated two times for credit and craft development.)* The study and practice of various forms and techniques in poetry, with attention to both traditional and contemporary models. **PREREQ:** Departmental permission.

3. **Rationale:** ENW 711 will provide students with the foundation to work with specific forms and/or techniques. Reading and writing in this structure will strengthen the writer's repertoire and knowledge. The Department will offer the course with a different instructor on a consistent rotation to ensure different pedagogical approaches for students.

4. **Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Poetry will be able to:

- Create both short and long form works of poetry utilizing specific forms and techniques.
- Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
- Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.

5. **Date of English Department Approval:** February 22, 2011

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**CURRICULUM CHANGE**

1. **Type of change:** New course

2. **Course Description:** **ENW 712: Forms and Techniques in Fiction.** *3 hours, 3 credits. (To be repeated two times for credit and craft development.)* The study and practice of various forms and techniques in fiction, with attention to both traditional and contemporary models. **PREREQ:** Departmental permission.

3. **Rationale:** ENW 712 will provide students with the foundation to work with specific forms and/or techniques. Reading and writing in this structure will strengthen the writer's repertoire and knowledge. The Department will offer the course with a different instructor on a consistent rotation to ensure different pedagogical approaches for students.

4. **Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Fiction will be able to:

- Create both short and long form works of fiction utilizing specific forms and techniques.
- Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
- Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**CURRICULUM CHANGE**

1. **Type of change:** New course

2. **Course Description:** **ENW 721: Thesis Workshop in Poetry.** *3 hours, 3 credits.* Workshop discussion of poetry thesis manuscripts, with attention to the structure of contemporary poetry collections and/or cycles, depending on student need. PREREQ: 15 completed credits and Departmental permission.

3. **Rationale:** ENW 721 will provide students with the opportunity to work with other students who are completing their creative theses. Taken in conjunction with ENG 795 if possible, student theses can/will be read in totality by multiple readers, with feedback on the total vision of each work that is invaluable as students prepare to submit their work for publication. The Department will offer the course with a different instructor on a consistent rotation to ensure different pedagogical approaches for students.

4. **Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Poetry will be able to:

- Complete a collection of poetry.
- Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
- Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.

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**CURRICULUM CHANGE**

1. **Type of change:** New course

2. **Course Description:** **ENW 722: Thesis Workshop in Fiction.** *3 hours, 3 credits.* Workshop discussion of fiction thesis manuscripts, with attention to the structure of contemporary short story collections, novellas and/or novels, depending on student need. **PREREQ:** 15 completed credits and Departmental permission.

3. **Rationale:** ENW 722 will provide students with the opportunity to work with other students who are completing their creative theses. Taken in conjunction with ENG 795 if possible, student theses can/will be read in totality by multiple readers, with feedback on the total vision of each work that is invaluable as students prepare to submit their work for publication. The Department will offer the course with a different instructor on a consistent rotation to ensure different pedagogical approaches for students.

4. **Learning Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, the student in the MFA program in Fiction will be able to:

- Complete a collection of short stories, a novella, or a novel.
- Interpret and critically evaluate texts of various genres and historical periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of a work or author.
- Describe a range of literary techniques and rhetorical strategies used in a variety of texts, including their relationship to audience, purpose, and cultural, contexts/constraints.

5. **Date of English Department Approval:** February 22, 2011