

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Programs in Children's Literature

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DEGREES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Master of Arts (MA) in Children's Literature

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Writing for
Children

MA/MFA joint degree

MA/MAT dual degree (see page 51)

MA/MLS dual degree (see page 37)

MA/MA-English dual degree (see page 37)

Master of Arts in Children's Literature

The graduate degree programs in children's literature offer specialized study of books for children and young adults to students who are, or who intend to be, involved in teaching, library work, editing, publishing, writing, or affiliated fields.

Admission: Admission requires a baccalaureate degree preferably with a major in English, American, and/or comparative literature from an accredited institution. However, the program is also open to students with majors in elementary or secondary education, fine arts, or social sciences who have done substantial work in English. The application requires a statement of purpose in seeking the MA degree, official transcripts of prior degree work, two letters of recommendation and, for international students, the Test of English as a Foreign Language results. An interview, though not

required, is strongly recommended.

Admissions are rolling; therefore, early application is recommended. Although students usually begin in the fall semester, they may be accepted for spring or summer semesters. Students may elect to complete their degree on a full- or part-time basis. Part-time students must complete the degree requirements within five years of registration as degree candidates. A maximum of four semester hours of transfer credit will be allowed toward the degree. Transfer credit must be applied for at the time of admission and before matriculation. All inquiries should be addressed to the Office of Graduate Studies Admission, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898. 617-521-2915 or emailed to gsa@simmons.edu.

Degree Requirements for the Master of Arts in Children's Literature: Thirty-six credits (nine courses) are required for the degree. The following five courses are mandatory:

CHL 401	Criticism of Literature for Children
CHL 403	The Picturebook
CHL 413	Contemporary Realistic Fiction
CHL 414	Fantasy and Science Fiction
	One literary history course

A candidate for the degree may elect to write a thesis or an independent project as a part of a tutorial during the final semester. The thesis may be a monograph, an essay, or a bibliographic compilation and will have a scholarly orientation. The independent project may take a variety of shapes; it should have practical application to the candidate's professional work and should represent a model for use by others. Possible independent projects include children's literature and curriculum development, literature education, a creative writing project, a sponsored internship. Students interested in pursuing a thesis or an independent project

should consult with the program director early in the program. Guidelines for proposal submission for thesis and independent study work are available from the program administrative assistant and from the program director.

The administrative committee assumes that students, upon completion of the degree program, will be able to demonstrate the confidence that comes with a general acquaintance with literature, as well as experience in children's literature. With this in mind, the graduate program director may advise students to complete additional coursework in literature. The specific courses will be determined following discussion between the student and the program director.

Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children

Admission: Admission requires a baccalaureate degree preferably with a major in English, American, and/or comparative literature and/or creative writing from an accredited institution. However, the program is also open to students with majors in elementary or secondary education, fine arts, or social sciences who have done substantial work in English or substantial creative writing. The application requires a statement of purpose in seeking the degree, official transcripts of prior degree work, two letters of recommendation and, for international students, the Test of English as a Foreign Language results. Additionally, MFA degree candidates must submit a portfolio of creative writing not to exceed 20 pages and a statement that reflects on the writing process and addresses the applicant's goals as a writer, tracks his/her publishing history, and/or identifies any works-in-progress. An interview, though not required, is strongly recommended.

Admissions are rolling; therefore, early application is recommended. Although students usually begin in the fall semester, they may be accepted for spring or summer semester. Students should review carefully when courses are offered and the sequence of courses in the

MFA program in order to progress through the program in a satisfactory manner. Students may elect to complete their degree on a full- or part-time basis. Part-time students must complete the degree requirements within five years of registration as degree candidates. A maximum of four semester hours of transfer credit will be allowed toward the degree. Transfer credit must be applied for at the time of admission and before matriculation. All inquiries should be addressed to the Office of Graduate Studies Admission, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA, 02115-5898. 617-521-2915. gsa@simmons.edu.

Degree Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children: This eight-course (32-credit) program of study has a strong theoretical underpinning. Each student completes four academic course and four writing courses:

CHL 401	Criticism of Literature for Children
CHL 403	The Picturebook
	One genre-based course
	One literary history course
CHL 430	Writing for Children I
CHL 431	Writing for Children II
CHL 441	Mentorship I
CHL 442	Mentorship II

BA/MA in Children's Literature and BA/MFA in Writing for Children

Simmons offers an accelerated program that allows Simmons undergraduate students to acquire a Master of Arts in Children's Literature or a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children within one year of completing their undergraduate studies at the College. Applications should be filed before the beginning of the student's senior year. Undergraduate students applying for graduate study in children's literature are expected to have the following qualifications:

1. A grade of B or above in ENGL 313 Survey of Children's and Young Adult Literature.

2. Additional 300-level work that incorporates or addresses children's or young adult literature in some way. For example, an English major could choose to take ENGL 311 Victorian Children's Literature as part of her major or to begin working on a manuscript for children in a writing course. Or, an education major could provide evidence that her student teaching required extensive work in children's literature. Similarly, a nursing major might find herself heavily involved in bibliotherapy (or other literature activities) in a hospital. A communications major could apply her internship in the children's trade division at a publishing company.

Any individual student may also complete an independent study on some aspect of children's literature, either in her major and/or under the supervision of the children's literature graduate faculty. The children's literature faculty will evaluate, at the time of application, the specific nature of this work. Students accepted into the accelerated BA/MA program must complete 32 credits beyond the Simmons baccalaureate degree for the MA; the BA/MFA student must complete 28 credits beyond the Simmons baccalaureate degree.

Degree Requirements for the MA/MFA Joint Degree Program

It is possible to complete a joint degree program that earns the MA and MFA in Children's Literature. Applicants to the joint degree program follow the application requirements for the MFA in Children's Literature and indicate that they wish to be considered for the joint degree program. The joint degree is comprised of 14 courses (56 credits):

CHL 401	Criticism of Literature for Children
CHL 403	The Picturebook
CHL 413	Contemporary Realistic Fiction
CHL 414	Fantasy and Science Fiction
CHL 421	Children's Book Publishing
CHL 430	Writing for Children I
CHL 431	Writing for Children II
CHL 441	Mentorship I
CHL 442	Mentorship II

One literary history course

Four elective courses in children's literature

Course Requirements

Courses in children's literature are open to graduate students who have been admitted to the children's literature program administered by the Center for the Study of Children's Literature. Non-matriculating graduate students may also enroll on a single-course or institute basis with the permission of the program director. Non-matriculating students must apply after completing their second course. Graduate students in other fields may enroll with the permission of their school or department and consent from the Children's Literature graduate program director. Undergraduate students may enroll under the regulations prescribed by the College. All courses carry four semester hours.

Dual-Degree Program with English

This dual-degree program in 14 course (56 credits):

CHL 401	Criticism of Literature for Children
CHL 403	The Picturebook
CHL 413	Contemporary Realistic Fiction
CHL 414	Fantasy and Science Fiction
One literary history course in children's literature	
Two elective courses in children's literature	
ENGL 405	Contemporary Critical Theory
Six elective courses in English	

Dual Degree Program with Library Science (MA/MLS)

Admission: Applicants to this 57–59 credit program must be admitted to both the College of Arts and Science's graduate program in children's literature and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Materials should be sent to the College of Arts and Science's graduate admissions office.

Degree Requirements (57–59 credit hours)

27 credit hours at GSLIS (each course carries 3 credit hours)

Five core courses in library and information science:

- LIS 481 Children's Literature and Media Collections
- LIS 483 Young Adult Literature
- LIS 482 Library Programs and Services to Children
- or LIS 531L Library Programs and Services for Young Adults
- LIS 423 Storytelling
- or LIS 520N Literacy: The Issue and the Library's Response
- or LIS 520O Information Sources for Children
- or LIS 450 Organization and Management of Public Libraries

24 credits in the Children's Literature (each course carries 4 credit hours)

- CHL 401 Criticism of Literature for Children
- CHL 403 The Picturebook
- CHL 413 Contemporary Realistic Fiction
- CHL 414 Fantasy and Science Fiction
- One literary history course in children's literature
- One elective course

6-8 shared credit hours

- A shared GSLIS/CHL course (in development)
- One elective chosen from the GSLIS Children's and Youth Services curriculum, the general LIS curriculum, or from the Children's Literature curriculum (3 credit hours, GSLIS; 4 credit hours, CAS)

COURSES**CHL 401 Criticism of Literature for Children (F-1,2)**

4 sem. hrs.

Develops the individual critical voices of students and acquaints them with the literary canon and a variety of literacy perspectives through exposure to many influential schools of literacy criticism. Applies critical skills in the examination of a range of novels (realism and fantasy), short stories, biographies, nonfiction, and translated works

published for children. Mercier.

CHL 403 The Picturebook (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Explores picturebooks and their histories in detail. Considers medium, technique, and technology to investigate the development of the picturebook as a distinct artistic form. Develops a discerning eye and critical vocabulary essential for appraising text and illustration. Hearn, Bloom.

CHL 404 Poetry for Young Readers*

4 sem. hrs.

Analyzes contemporary poetry accessible to children and young adults, following a brief historical overview of children's poetry. Studies influential individual poets as well as respected anthologies as a means of developing a critical sense of poetry and identifying poetry that sings for young readers. Staff.

CHL 411 Victorian Children's Literature (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the wide variety of Victorian literature written for children, from fairy tales and nonsense verse to didactic fiction and classic examples of the Victorian bildungsroman. Authors may include Lewis Carroll, Charles Kingsley, Frances Hodgson Burnett, Dinah Mulock Craik, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson, Charlotte Mary Yonge, and Rudyard Kipling. Hager.

CHL 413 Contemporary Realistic Fiction for Young Adults (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the adolescent's quest for a sense of self as she or he must struggle to affirm identity in ever-expanding Joycian circles of influence. Focuses on fiction published for both young adults and adults, drawing from the work of Brock Cole, Robert Cormier, M.E. Kerr, Chris Lynch, Kyoko Mori, Walter Dean Myers, and Virginia Euwer Wolff, among others. Mercier.

CHL 414 Fantasy and Science Fiction (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Provides a historical study and critical analysis of the development of fantasy and science fiction for children. Traces the growth of themes and genres

in works studied and examines underlying themes as serious expressions of human hopes and fears in the past and for the future. Staff.

CHL 416 Modern British Fiction for Young People*

4 sem. hrs.

Involves lectures, workshops on books and extracts, discussions, and student input in various form to survey contemporary British authors and illustrators and trends. Uses specific authors and genres to direct a critical discussion of how to talk about British children's and young adult books. Staff.

CHL 417 Canadian Children's Literature*

4 sem. hrs.

Examines Canadian children's books in English as they reflect the evolution from a colonial to a pluralistic society, including a study of domestic and historical fiction, fantasy and science fiction, the realistic animal story, picturebooks, and folklore. Uses examples of children's books from other Commonwealth nations, especially Australia and New Zealand, for comparison and contrast. Staff.

CHL 418 Australian Children's Literature*

4 sem. hrs.

Examines the growth of an indigenous literature for children and its contemporary flowering in both writing and illustrating. Emphasizes work published since 1970, except for some major writers such as Ivan Southall, Patricia Wrightson, Joan Phipson, and Eleanor Spense. Includes all genres. Staff.

CHL 420 Project-Thesis Tutorial (F-1,2; S-1,2; U-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Requires preparation of a monograph, essay, or bibliographic compilation with a scholarly orientation. Consult with the program director regarding guidelines and deadlines for submitting thesis proposal. Staff.

CHL 421 History of Children's Book Publishing (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Surveys the history of children's book publishing

in the U.S. and then focuses on the various stages of the contemporary children's book publishing process – editing, art direction and design, and marketing. Practitioners from each of these areas will share their expertise and involvement in the evolution of a book's creation. The final assignment requires that each student will develop a publishing project and show how such a book would be published. Staff.

[CHL 423/ENGL 423 19th-Century American Children's Literature

4 sem. hrs. Not offered in 2008–2010.]

Reading writers including Hawthorne, Alcott, Twain, Susan Warner, Thomas Bailey, Aldrich, and Margaret Sidney, this class will consider the role of religion, the classed and gendered nature of writing for children, and the way the family is depicted and disciplined. We'll also take up the question of slavery, women's suffrage, and industrialization in the children's literature of the period. Hager.

CHL 425 Folk and Fairy Tales*

4 sem. hrs.

Examines fairy and folk tales from classical origins to modern anthologies, orality to literacy, focusing on the Grimms and the phenomenon they canonized. Considers the cultural and psychological messages encoded in the tales, the various frames placed around them by their tellers (old women, male philologists, jongleurs, and modern anthologizers), and the various historical and social functions tales have filled at different times. Also surveys the major 19th- and 20th-century schools of tale interpretation. Develops skills in close reading and analysis of tales. Staff.

CHL 426 The Child in Fiction*

4 sem. hrs.

Examines art, literature, history, and critical theory as well as education, psychology, and media studies to consider the multiple ways literature about and for children constructs notions of childhood. Addresses portrayals of race, class, and gender in children's books that take childhood itself as subject. Includes readings crossing age (from picturebooks to young adult novels) and genre (folklore, poetry, fantasy, and realism). Mercier.

F = Fall
S = Spring
U = Summer
TC = Travel Course
1 = Academic
Year 2008-2009
2 = Academic
Year 2009-2010
* = Schedule t.b.a.

CHL 430 Writing for Children I (F-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Investigates the process of writing fiction for children through written assignments and class discussion of both assignments and published books. Examines different narrative forms and techniques and the elements and development of a story. Includes individual conferences to work on individual projects. Requires a willingness to participate and experiment, but previous creative writing experience is not necessary. Staniczewski.

CHL 431 Writing for Children II (S-1,2)

4 sem. hrs. Prereq: CHL 430.

Investigates the process of writing fiction for children through written assignments and class discussion of assignments, published books, and theoretical applications. Examines different narrative forms and techniques and the elements and development of a story. Includes individual conferences. Staniszewski.

CHL 435 Contemporary Considerations: The Writer's Achievement (F-2)

4 sem hrs.

Provides a rare opportunity to examine the entire body of a writer's work. Develops critical skills through study of the completed works of three important writers of children's literature. Requires corollary readings of literary criticism pertaining to each author. A book-by-book exploration of the writer's evolution, style, themes, ideology, and ultimately achievement with an eye to the connections between books and to the author's work as a whole. Bloom.

CHL 436 Nonfiction: The New Frontier in Children's Books (F-1)

4 sem. hrs.

Studies the vital and diverse genre of children's nonfiction. Considers the history of the genre while focusing on contemporary nonfiction titles and authors. Discusses varied issues that the field generates, including its intersections with fiction. Substantially considers biographies from picture-books through young adult fiction. Bloom.

CHL 441 MFA Mentorship I (F-1,2; S-1,2; U-1,2)

4 sem. hrs. Prereq: CHL 430.

Provides MFA students individual mentoring from a children's book author, editor, or critic to develop a single project from its initial conception to submission in manuscript form to a publishing house. Consult with the program director regarding guidelines and deadlines for submitting mentorship proposal. Staff.

CHL 442 MFA Mentorship II (F-1,2; S-1,2; U-1,2)

4 sem. hrs. Prereq: CHL 441.

Provides MFA students individual mentoring from a children's book author, editor, or critic to develop a single project from its initial conception to submission in manuscript form to a publishing house. Consult with the program director regarding guidelines and deadlines for submitting mentorship proposal. Staff.

CHL 450 Independent Study (F-1,2; S-1,2; U-1,2)

4 sem. hrs.

Provides students an opportunity to study a topic of their choosing in the area of curriculum development or literature education. Project should have practical application to the candidate's professional work and represent a model for use by others. Consult with the program director regarding guidelines and deadlines for submitting independent study proposal. Staff.

CHL 500 Summer Symposium in Children's Literature (U-2)

Examines all genres of children's literature, from picture-book through young adult novel, nonfiction, and poetry, through a thematic lens. Culminates in a long weekend in which authors, illustrators, editors, and critics of children's literature bring their unique vision to the theme. The topic for 2009 is "Crimes and Misdemeanors". Past summer symposia have been "Food, Glorious, Food" (2007), "Let's Dance" (2005), "Midnight Gardens" (2003), "Brave New Worlds" (2001), "Halos and Hooligans" (1999), and "As Time Goes By" (1997). Staff.

**Schedule to be announced. British, Canadian, and Australian Children's Literature typically are offered only in even-numbered summers.*