

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Arts in Children's Literature

About the Program

Recognizing the number of adults concerned with sharing a rich literary heritage with young people and dedicated to more effectively eliciting refined responses to literature, the Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons College offers the nation's first Master of Arts in Children's Literature. This program engages students in a rigorous and disciplined academic study of children's literature, providing specialized study to those who are, or intend to be, involved in academia, library services, editing, publishing, or affiliated fields. The curriculum emphasizes historical and critical analysis, including feminist, ideology, and multicultural perspectives, with interdisciplinary coursework drawing upon art, history, education, sociology, psychology, and media studies.

Degree Requirements

Thirty-six credits are required for the degree. Of the nine courses required, the following five 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 course in the history of children's literature, selected from courses with a chronological focus, such as:

CHL 411 Victorian Children's Literature

CHL 423 19th Century American Children's Literature

or

CHL 425 Folk and Fairy Tales

Course offerings vary by semester. Please contact the program director for more information regarding applicable courses.

A candidate for the degree can elect to write a thesis or a project as a part of an independent tutorial during the final semester. The thesis can be a monograph, an essay, or a bibliographic compilation and should have a scholarly orientation. The project can be in a wide range of practical areas, such as literature education, publishing internships, or other projects that apply the degree to professional fields and can be used as a model for others. A student must take two courses in general literature if he/she does not have substantial undergraduate coursework in literature. Upon completion of the degree program, graduates will be able to demonstrate the confidence that comes with a general acquaintance with literature, as well as experience in children's literature.

"I was enthralled to be in an environment where picturebooks, young adult books, fairy tales, novels in verse, Victorian children's books, and a wide scope of fantasy and science fiction were our primary texts. Literary theories from archetypal criticism to deconstruction were both tools and subjects. No children's literature or literary criticism was off limits to our most rigorous examination."

REBECCA RABINOWITZ '02GS
M.A., CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



SIMMONS
GRADUATE STUDIES ADMISSION

Admission Requirements

Admission requires a baccalaureate degree preferably with a major in English and 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. Applicants must also submit official transcripts of all degree work, two letters of recommendation, and, for international students, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). An interview, though not required, is strongly recommended. Admission deadlines are rolling for all three semesters. Part-time students must agree to 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.

Dual Degree in Children's Literature and English

This 56 credit program consists of seven courses in Children's Literature and seven courses in English. The Children's Literature component includes the five core courses and two elective courses. The seven English courses include English 405, Contemporary Critical Theory, and six English electives. For a list of English electives, please reference the course catalog.

Children's Literature Courses

- CHL 401 Criticism of Literature for Children
- CHL 403 The Picturebook
- CHL 404 Poetry for Young Readers
- CHL 411 Victorian Children's Literature
- CHL 413 Contemporary Realistic Fiction
- CHL 414 Fantasy and Science Fiction
- CHL 416 Modern British Fiction for Young People
- CHL 417 Canadian Children's Literature
- CHL 418 Australian Children's Literature
- CHL 420 Project-Thesis Tutorial
- CHL 421 History of Children's Book Publishing
- CHL 423 19th Century American Children's Literature
- CHL 425 Folk and Fairy Tales
- CHL 426 The Child in Fiction
- CHL 430 Writing for Children
- CHL 436 Nonfiction: The New Frontier in Children's Books
- CHL 450 Independent Study
- CHL 500 Summer Symposium in Children's Literature

Contact Us

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