

# MFA SURVEY

## 2009-2010 AWP

This past year, AWP asked Program Directors dozens of questions pertaining to their creative writing programs. Thanks to the Program Directors, AWP was able to assemble information on issues ranging from financial aid to class size, tuition, and budget and salary figures. With the downturn in the national economy, many programs and departments are competing for resources likely to become more constrained. Our hope is that the information gathered here will help faculty, students, and administrators make the best possible case for continued investment in their programs.

This information can help programs advocate for more administrative support, course reductions, and additional teaching assistantships or scholarships for students. In addition, the expenditure information in our survey can help programs advocate for adjunct and faculty salary adjustments as well as additional resources towards an affiliated reading series or literary magazine.

For many students and faculty, it is helpful to know how their school's size and acceptance rates compare to the average program. Statistics on admission, class size, and program size will help you understand where your program stands among its peers.

AWP thanks all the schools that participated in our most recent survey. Individual survey responses are confidential, but we hope that the aggregate totals listed here are helpful to your program and your creative writing community.

### HOW TO READ THESE STATISTICS

In 2009-2010, AWP surveyed 145 full-residency MFA programs. The following is one such result from the survey:

Financial Aid & Teaching Assistantship Information	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
Average Number of Teaching Assistantships Available	10.3	70%

The category is indicated, followed by the average of all responses and the percentage of the eligible pool that responded to the question. In this case, 70% of the eligible pool responded to the question, and 10.3 was the average number of available teaching assistantships. AWP

Complementary Programs	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
MFA Program has a visiting Writer Series	52%	65%
MFA Program DOES NOT have a Visiting Writer Series	48%	65%
Average budget, Reading Series	\$19,183	57%
Number of Writers brought to campus each year	10.15	64%
Estimated number of Writers taking part in MFA Reading Series nationwide	974	
Estimated financial payments to Visiting Writers at all MFA programs nationwide	\$1,841,568	
Average budget for Literary Magazine	\$16,535	46%

Tuition Information	Average of Responses	# Institutions Responding
Average Tuition (Private)	\$20,518	31
Average Tuition (Public, In-State)	\$5,993	48
Average Tuition (Public, Out-of-State)	\$13,033	45

Enrollment Application & Acceptance Information	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
Estimated total number of Grad Students currently enrolled in MFA Programs	8,372	
Average number of Grad Students per Program	45.5	73%
Average number of applicants per Program	223.45	69%
Average number admitted per Program	18.92	71%
Average acceptance rate nationwide	9%	71%
Average number of students in a Graduated Seminar or Workshop	10.9	79%

Financial Aid & Teaching Assistantship Information	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
Average number of Teaching Assistantships available	10.3	70%
Average Stipend for Teaching Assistantship	\$10,821	60%
Teaching Assistants receive a Full Tuition waiver	64.5%	74%
Teaching Assistants receive a Partial Tuition Waiver	14.90%	74%
Teaching Assistants Receive No Tuition Waiver	20.6%	74%
Average number of scholarships available	7.23	59%

Salary Information	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
Highest Stipend, Adjunct	\$6,072	28%
Lowest Stipend, Adjunct	\$4,405	32%
Average Stipend, Adjunct	\$5,239	
Highest Salary, Assistant Professor	\$58,441	44%
Lowest Salary, Assistant Professor	\$50,387	48%
Average Salary, Assistant Professor	\$54,414	
Highest Salary, Associate Professor	\$72,714	46%
Lowest Salary, Associate Professor	\$61,245	47%
Average Salary, Associate Professor	\$66,980	
Highest Salary, Full Professor	\$105,209	44%
Lowest Salary, Full Professor	\$76,665	43%
Average Salary, Full Professor	\$90,937	

Program Director Support	Average of Responses	% of Eligible Pool Responding
Program Director receives compensation for Administrative Duties	43%	62%
Program Director DOES NOT receive compensation for Administrative Duties	57%	62%
If the Program Director receives compensation for Administrative Duties, how much?	\$11,595	35%
Course Load Reduction Program Director receives (per year)	1.61	66%
Program Director receives Part-Time Admin. Assistant	48.7%	54%
Program Director receives Full-Time Admin. Assistant	39.5%	54%
Program Director receives Full-Time & Part-Time Admin. Assistant	11.8%	54%